

PANEL, WOOD & *Solid Surface*

Issue No. 191/192

April/May 2024

Light-illuminated Stannah passenger lift inspires

visitors at Winchester Cathedral

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Prime Minister and Chancellor visit Selco on Budget Day

PRIME MINISTER Rishi Sunak and Chancellor of the Exchequer Jeremy Hunt visited Selco Builders Warehouse on one of the most significant days in the political calendar.

Mr Sunak and Mr Hunt were welcomed into Selco's Old Kent Road branch on Wednesday just hours after the Spring Budget was delivered to a packed House of Commons.

The leaders were given a tour of the central London branch, which is less than four miles from Downing Street.

Mr Sunak and Mr Hunt also took time to talk with Selco colleagues and to carry out interviews with the country's media.

Howard Luft, CEO of Selco, said it was an honour to be the focal point in the immediate aftermath of the Budget.

"It was a privilege to show the Prime Minister and the Chancellor around one of our most centrally-located London branches and to introduce them to some of our colleagues," said Howard.

"It created a real buzz of excitement amongst colleagues and customers and we were able to



From left, Akpevwoghene Anighoro, Rishi Sunak, Jeremy Hunt and Natasha Akhtar.

offer an insight into the builders' merchant industry in general and Selco in particular.

"The Budget is a highly significant event in British politics and it was exciting for us to be involved in it."

Natasha Akhtar, Checkout Sales Assistant at Selco Old Kent Road, said: "It was an incredible experience to sit and have a cup of tea with the Prime Minister and the Chancellor. It was far from your normal working day and some-

thing I will remember for the rest of my life."

Selco Old Kent Road celebrated 11 years of serving the trade in March.

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From left, Selco CEO Howard Luft, Rishi Sunak, Jeremy Hunt and Charlene Kemal.

Modular specialist utilising SterlingOSB Zero to produce high performance SIPs system

A MANUFACTURER of modular buildings utilising its own high performance Structural Insulated Panels (SIPs) is providing a value-added service to contractors and self-builders across the UK, with the use of SterlingOSB Zero boards from West Fraser being a key component in the precision production process.

PROSIPS® is based on Deeside and serves a growing market where private customers, as well as experienced builders are seeking project specific kits comprising SIPs able to meet the highest energy requirements, while offering technical support and still remaining affordable.

The company's Elysian Home Extensions packages accordingly not only encompass full structural calculations and assistance in meeting Building Control requirements, but also include the ground-screw piles as required — while an erection service for the panels is also available.

The founder and MD of PRO-SIPS®, Paul Deen commented: "I spent ten years in the modular sector, but as an installer, before deciding to set up my own manufacturing business; and now supply garden rooms, building extensions and other modular structures to contractors and end users across the whole of the country. It's a highly streamlined business model with just half a dozen people working on con-



tract in our premises near Chester, producing high quality bespoke kits.

"In the UK demand outweighs supply, especially when you look at traditional construction with its labour shortages, and the modular world is still at the start of the curve.

"My approach is to offer people who understand the system, high U-value kits at an affordable price, that they can erect and have watertight in less than two weeks. And at the heart of that is the SIPs panels we produce ourselves using SterlingOSB Zero — it's a very strong and well proven product — more durable than its competitors and has never caused us a problem."

Looking to the future, Paul Deen concluded: "We are current-

ly producing a dozen or more kits per month — having floor areas around 50 m² — and we see the volume trebling this year, with plans for further expansion over the next five years."

SterlingOSB Zero is available in a range of sizes and thicknesses up to 22 mm as well as a T&G version

ideal for flooring and decking applications. The high-performance panel product, free of added formaldehyde, has also earned BBA approval and meets other industry technical requirements.

West Fraser

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Panel, Wood & Solid Surface

is published by

Pawprint Publishing Ltd

121 Warren Drive
Hornchurch
Essex RM12 4QU

Tel 07913 783510

email info@pawprintuk.co.uk
www.pawprintuk.co.uk

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For the full list contact:
Gerry Lynch on **07860 359382**
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Makita launches new quiet series electric air compressor

MAKITA has added a new air compressor to its Quiet Series range. Designed for use across a range of applications to enable efficient and consistent operation of tools, the new, compact MAC210Q is the latest air compressor to be launched by the leading tool manufacturer, and it is available in 110 V or 240 V options.

The new one-HP, two-gallon, oil-free electric MAC210Q including case and base, carries all the Makita hallmarks that users rely on — faster recovery time, lower noise, longer tool life, and consistent performance.

With a low noise level of just 60 dB(A) and weighing just 44 lbs, the MAC210Q is perfectly suited to indoor use and easy to transport around site. To increase ease of operation, a low AMP draw reduces incidents of tripped breakers at start-up, while the lever-handle tank drain system makes for easy air tank release.



Other key features include a powerful 1 HP induction motor which provides two CFM at 90 PSI with a maximum tank pressure of 135 PSI.

Additionally, the compressor runs at a lower RPM, ensuring a longer lifespan for both the motor and pump, which are also protected by a roll-cage construction that provides added protection during transportation, storage, and on the job site.

Kevin Brannigan, Marketing Manager at Makita UK commented: "Air compressors are hardy companions for workshop professionals — they need to be robust and reliable, while being practical and ergonomic. Makita offers all of this with the lightweight and portable MAC210Q, which delivers high performance at low noise levels."

Makita
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Selco relaunches £12k community giveaway

COMMUNITY GROUPS, clubs and charities across the UK are being given the chance to improve their facilities by winning a share of a prize pot worth more than £10,000.

Selco Builders Warehouse has announced the re-launch of its popular Community Heroes competition. It is the fourth time the leading builders merchant has supported good causes across the country through Community Heroes, with £36,000 in cash and building materials already won by groups from Northumberland to Cornwall.

Over the course of six months, 12 winners will benefit from £500 to spend at their nearest Selco. A public vote will follow, with one overall winner bagging £5,000 in cash and a runner-up awarded £1,000.

The scheme is open to any charity or group which is at the heart of its local community and entry can be made by explaining in no more than 100 words how the building materials or money would be used to benefit members.

Alison Wong, Head of Communications and Sustainability at Selco, said: "We're delighted to announce the return of Community Heroes as we strive to support good causes across the country.

"It has been such a difficult few years for community groups and charities as first Covid-19 hit, followed by a rocky economic environment.

"For many much-loved groups, maintenance and building work has been put on the backburner as there simply is no money left in the budget. Community Heroes support can make a massive difference and help these organisations to carry out tangible, long-lasting improvements to their facilities.

"We would welcome entries from any group that benefits the local community, whether that's a scout group, a grassroots sports club, a community centre or anything similar.

"This is always an extremely popular initiative and I am certain that will be the case again."

The previous three winners of the competition were Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice, Helping Homeless Veterans and North Bristol RFC.

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<https://www.selcobw.com/info/selco-community-heroes>



Power partnerships with Rotpunkt UK

ROTPUNKT, an award winning designer and leading manufacturer of climate friendly German kitchen furniture, continues to place tremendous value on power partnerships, as it selects a range of key brand partners to become part of its ongoing market presence.

Matt Phillips, Head of UK Operations at Rotpunkt says, "I believe that strong partnerships are essential to supplying a broad spectrum of furniture innovations, which are sustainable and deliver best-in-class design solutions for our customers. Continually seeking like brands to work with and make a difference, we're extremely proud to be long-standing partners with a variety of global accreditation bodies, along with collaborative product design and ongoing brand partnerships at key industry events and exhibitions. In fact, Forbes reports that strong partners will produce strong results and this is why we ensure that our brand partnerships are founded on shared values, and is supported by our growing network of premium UK retailers."

For example, kbb Birmingham saw Rotpunkt return as a proud Show Partner and also a trusted exhibitor ready to inspire the next generation of suppliers, designers and specifiers in kitchen, bedroom and bathroom design once again.

kbb 2024 also made way for the recent collaboration with home fashion label, Buster + Punch, where UK customers can now experience a range of signature handles designed to complement the latest furniture designs by Rotpunkt. The innovative Rotpunkt X Buster + Punch Handle Collection is designed and made in England, and includes 20 style combinations with 5 handles and 4 colours to create contemporary kitchens, which are defined by difference.

Rotpunkt is also thrilled to partner with Abode, where four out of five displays on Stand Q90 highlighted a series of the company's designer sinks and taps, all finished in contemporary matt black to provide absolute brand harmony.

Firmly established over a dec-



Rotpunkt Greenline furniture is constructed of BioBoard Gen2, which is made by Pfleiderer Deutschland of 90% recycled materials and in partnership with Myclimate.org. Image shows Zerox in a combination of Clay Dark and Black extreme matt finish.

ade ago, the partnership between Rotpunkt and Pfleiderer Deutschland began in 2015 with the launch of BioBoard, a sustainable and environmentally friendly alternative to traditional chipboards. Ongoing innovation from both brands led to the development of BioBoard Gen2, which consists of up to 90% recycled wood without compromising on style or quality. Fulfilling the world's highest requirements for formaldehyde emissions, BioBoard Gen2 is certified F4 star standard, which equates to 50% less emissions when compared to conventional chipboard to provide a healthier living environment in the domestic home.

80% of all Rotpunkt furniture is made of Greenline BioBoard Gen2, with 95% of all Rotpunkt kitchens FSC® certified to provide a greener alternative for both home and planet. Lending itself perfectly to the company's ground-breaking 'Together to Zero' climate strategy established in 2017, Rotpunkt continues to work in partnership with MyClimate.org to 'avoid-reduce-compensate' and ensure environmentally friendly and en-

ergy efficient production of all its furniture.

Matt says, "I have always been inspired by our ability to lead with integrity and partner with brands, which share the same goals as Rotpunkt. Our 'Together to Zero' climate strategy is based on the 17 goals for sustainable development that were set by the United Nations and so, we are extremely proud that just six years after roll-out, our kitchen furniture is central to the UN17 eco village, which is regarded as one of the world's most ambitious and sustainable building projects ever!"

Through carefully considered partnerships, sustainable projects, and climate friendly furniture design, Rotpunkt works hard to offset all unavoidable emissions from its production, vehicle fleet and employee mobility to continue on its one mission to zero emission.

For many years, Rotpunkt has worked in partnership with world leader of clever kitchen storage, Kesseböhmer to optimise its product offering and to provide new levels of space management through tailored designs

for kitchen living interiors, utility and laundry space, as well as luxury dressing rooms. The extensive range of storage systems, racks, organisers, and shelving solutions all cater to the latest trends and, more recently, include specially designed internal storage for the new 750 mm wide cabinets by Rotpunkt to complement today's supersized integrated appliances.

Thanks to the extended range of widths by Rotpunkt, now spanning 600 mm standard to the new 750 mm wide units, customers can experience a visually quiet kitchen décor which is ultramodern and offers superior storage space. Making it is easier for kitchens to be arranged to better suit the user depending on personal preferences and range of movement, the new 750 mm wide units were also on display at this year's kbb Birmingham, and feature premium cabinet hardware from Kesseböhmer in the ARENA Pure design with choice of round or angular interior storage tray.

Rotpunkt
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Selco supports Osbaldwick cricket club

ON-SONG Osbaldwick Cricket Club has enjoyed the perfect build-up to the 2024 season by landing a sponsorship extension with one of the UK's leading builders merchants.

Selco Builders Warehouse has sponsored the Yorkshire Premier League North club since 2020 and has now committed its support for a further two years.

Osbaldwick won the Division Two Galtres title last season to secure

promotion, while the club's second team were also crowned league champions. The club also has a midweek adult team and a thriving junior section as it continues to grow in numbers.

Sam Thompson, committee member and first team player, said: "To have a nationally renowned sponsor such as Selco on board is a huge coup for the club and we are delighted that will be the case for two more years. Selco have been fantastic supporters of ours and we have an excellent relationship with the local branch in York."

"The support Selco provides makes a huge difference to the running of the club, which has become increasingly difficult over the last few years, and we are hugely grateful for the backing. We've had an incredible year on the pitch with both senior teams winning league titles and to have Selco commit their support sponsorship wise is the icing on the cake."

As part of the agreement, Selco — which has its York branch near to the cricket club on Osbaldwick Link Road — has its branding around the pitch and features as front of shirt sponsor for all senior teams.

Aaron Matthews, branch manager of Selco York, said: "Osbaldwick Cricket Club is a big part of the local community and we are delighted to play a small part in ensuring the club continues to thrive."

"There was fantastic success at the club last season and we look forward to seeing all adult and junior teams continue to shine in 2024."

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Selco ● www.selcobw.com



Left to right: Selco Branch Manager Aaron Matthews, Sam Thompson, Alex Hay and James Hattee.

New faces at Premier Forest

LEADING timber supplier Premier Forest Products has appointed a new branch manager and sales executive at its site in Langley, Berkshire.

Premier Forest Products is a highly successful, diverse and well-respected specialist supplier of timber and panel products within the UK. The branch at Langley is a key distribution hub for the South-East, holding a wide range of stock and able to offer the full gamut of services that Premier is known for, from bulk distribution of commodity panel and timber products, to bespoke machining requirements and even high-spec fire door manufacture.

Alex Bennett (right) has joined the business as branch manager for the Langley site and will oversee the everyday running of the operation, focusing on further development of regional sales as well as enhancing customer service and streamlining logistics to drive overall efficiency for clients. On his appointment, Alex said: "I'm extremely excited to have joined Premier Forest Products and about the prospect of taking the Langley branch forward. Premier has a great reputation as a business, known for having a family feel alongside its ambitious growth plans and diverse portfolio. The team has already been so welcoming and supportive. I can't wait to see what the future has in store."

Callum Dorsett (left) has also joined the site, taking the role of sales executive, which will see him supporting customers across the home counties into West London. Callum said: "This is a great opportunity for me. I'm looking forward to working within such a personable company with some great clients and an amazing range of products and services to offer."

Joe Walker, managing director at Premier, said: "We're delighted to welcome Alex and Callum to the team in Langley. Their professionalism and experience within the industry will support our aim of ever improving the customer experience across the Premier Forest family."

Premier Forest Products Ltd is a vertically integrated timber operation engaged in the importation, wholesale distribution, milling, processing, merchandising and manufacture of timber products from multiple sites across the UK.

Premier Forest Products Ltd ● https://premierforest.co.uk



Selco donates materials for village hall restoration

ONE OF the UK's leading builders merchants has demonstrated its commitment to supporting local communities by donating £5,000 worth of materials to assist with the redevelopment of Osbaldwick Village Hall.

The York branch of Selco Builders Warehouse has provided the products to Osbaldwick Parish Council, which is currently refurbishing the former Methodist Chapel.

The building, which dates back to 1871, is undergoing renovation works, with internal structural repairs, new toilets and kitchen facilities and updates to the building's insulation, electrics and plumbing.

In addition, the building will benefit from a two-story extension to include a staircase to a mezzanine floor in the original building.

Osbaldwick and Derwent Ward Councillor Mark Warters said: "Selco have been fantastic since the start of the project. The donation of £5,000 worth of products has been a massive help and we wouldn't have been able to have made the progress we have achieved without their support.

"We are really grateful to the backing we have received from the team at the York branch, who



Selco staff Sacha Saba, Tonicha Tail, Nicola Edwards and Aaron Matthews with residents Mark Warters and Wendy Maddocks viewing the renovations at Osbaldwick Village Hall.

have been extremely helpful. The branch management team and staff have been on hand throughout the project with prompt deliveries, competitive pricing and advice.

"The building has been empathetically restored and extended,

providing a much-needed community space for local residents."

The hall, which has been closed since August 2022, re-opened in April. The revamped space will be a vibrant new hub for community activities and meetings.

Aaron Matthews, branch man-

ager for Selco Builders Warehouse York which is based on Osbaldwick Link Road, said: "It's important for us to work closely with the communities we are based in, and we've seen what a fantastic project the restoration of Osbaldwick Village Hall is.

"The hall has been a central part of the community for more than 150 years, so it is great to see it being restored and refurbished so it can continue to flourish for many years to come. We're looking forward to seeing the final results of the work next month and have been proud to play a small part in the restoration."

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Easi-Fit from Scotts Timber Engineering

SCOTTS Timber Engineering (STE) has unveiled a set of standardised timber vehicle storage solutions and porches, aimed at allowing housebuilders to cut down construction time and resources on site whilst adding value to properties.

Providing alternatives to bricks and mortar-based garages and porches, the Easi-Fit range comprises prefabricated components made from engineered timber which are delivered onsite to housebuilders on a just-in-time basis for rapid assembly. STE has focused on developing a set of standardised measurements and configurations that can easily be procured and incorporated into housing developments at scale.

"With Easi-Fit, we have focused on developing an attractive, practical solution for housebuilders looking to add something special to their developments," said James Scott, managing director of the Scotts Group.

"We're taking advantage of timber's suitability for offsite construction to deliver time and cost savings without compromising on quality or desirability. We are confident our solutions will add significantly to the aesthetics of any housing scheme."

One of the additional selling points of Easi-Fit is sustainability replacing mortar or steel solutions for porches and garages with durable timber to help reduce carbon footprint and increase the use of natural materials. The timber for Easi-Fit is manufactured from a range of PEFC-certified and sustainability-sourced timbers including Redwood, Whitewood Oak, Douglas Fir, and Accoya.

James Scott continued: "Scotts recently completed our Carbon Footprint certification to help ensure we can maximise the low carbon benefits of timber products for our customers. For every tonne of timber used in our buildings instead of concrete, another two tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions are saved."

"Easi-Fit is designed to make it as easy as possible for housebuilders to replace aspects of their builds with timber, so it really is a win-win for our customers in sustainability, costs and speed of installation."

Scotts Timber Engineering has secured contracts with Miller Homes to deliver Easi-Fit products with several more contracts in the pipeline. All customers will be provided with on-site training to ensure Easi-Fit products can be installed as efficiently as possible.

Scotts Timber Engineering ● <https://www.scottste.co.uk/easi-fit-timber/>



Special commendation for Selco

SELCO Builders Warehouse has been recognised for its fundraising achievements after the leading builders merchant donated more than £400,000 to charity over the last two years.

Cancer Research UK has awarded Selco a Special Commendation for its Corporate Fundraising Team of the Year category.

It is the second time Selco has received the accolade which forms part of Cancer Research UK's annual Flame of Hope awards, which celebrate the achievements of the charity's most inspiring and outstanding fundraisers and volunteers.

Selco's customers, colleagues and suppliers have joined forces to play their part in helping beat cancer through a series of fundraising events over the past two years.

These have included walking, abseiling, cycling and running challenges, golf days and special themed events at Selco's 75 UK branches.

Alison Wong, head of communications and sustainability at

Selco, said: "It's been an incredible two years of fundraising for Cancer Research UK and we are thrilled to have raised more than £400,000."

"Having Cancer Research UK as our nominated charity truly resonates with everyone connected with Selco and the engagement we have seen around fundraising activity has been exceptional."

"We are continuing our support

for this fantastic charity into 2024 and we are looking forward to raising more vital funds to make a real difference to the research it carries out."

Money raised helps Cancer Research UK analyse potential prevention and treatment of cancer through the work of over 4,000 doctors, nurses and scientists.

Jayme Shepherd, relationship manager at Cancer Research UK,

said: "The support Selco have provided the charity has been first-class and the team is fully deserving of recognition in our Flame of Hope Awards."

"Throughout Selco, there is a genuine commitment and enthusiasm for fundraising and that is illustrated by the fact that the company has raised a phenomenal amount of money over the last two years."

"Our progress as a charity relies on the incredible dedication and commitment of volunteers and supporters like Selco — without whom we would not be able to fund our life-saving work."

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Jayme Shepherd of Cancer Research with Selco CEO Howard Luft.

UHI Inverness Student of the Year Nadia Johal

NADIA JOHAL, an apprentice who mentored pupils and led the winning team in a sustainability challenge while studying and working night shifts has been named as UHI Inverness Student of the Year.

UHI Inverness announced their student of the year winners to celebrate outstanding individuals for a range of reasons including academic achievement, overcoming adversity, personal endeavour and exceptional peer and mentor support.

Nadia is a fourth year Electrical Engineering Apprentice at the wood panelling manufacturer, West Fraser.

Nadia said: "It is nice for my achievements to be noted and appreciated after all the hard work I have put in while studying with UHI Inverness.

"Since leaving school in 2012 I have studied at the university a number of times, including completing a business-related degree.

"During my latest study experience I have had the chance to be heavily involved with STEM and STEAM projects where I have been able to meet many inspirational people. Being taught by lecturers with such impressive, real-life knowledge of the field really helped to enrich the entire experience."

Nadia was nominated by Jack Marley McIntyre, UHI Inverness STEAM Coordinator, who mentored her during two major projects.

West Fraser ● Tel 01786 812 921 ● <https://uk.westfraser.com/>



Selco donates to Hornfair Park community project

A KIND-HEARTED builders merchant has stepped in to help further enhance a Greenwich park for the use of the local community.

Selco Builders Warehouse's Charlton branch has donated supplies to the Friends of Hornfair Park group, who are currently working to improve the park facilities for local residents.

The group was awarded a Parks Forum grant last year that has allowed them to purchase new picnic benches to help provide a family friendly area. The donated materials will be used to provide concrete plinths for the benches to be bolted to.

Ann Lowes, Chair of Friends of Hornfair Park, said: "It's great to have the support of Selco. While the grant we received helped us to purchase the two benches, we were in need of material donations to complete the installation. The team at Selco has been so helpful, with swift delivery allowing our volunteers to fit the benches promptly.

"Hornfair Park is a little bit of a hidden gem that has not in recent years received as much support as it might. Our newly established constituted local community group, launched in March last year, is enthusiastic about getting our park back on the map and making it a place for family, friends and community to come together."

Hornfair Park is home to Charl-

ton Lido and Lifestyle Club, with a multi-use games area, children's playground and paddling pool. There are also football pitches with changing facilities for hire, a BMX track, formal gardens and open space areas.

Carolyn Bellers, branch manager for Selco Builders Warehouse Charlton, which is based on Woolwich Road, said: "It's important for our branch to have a real affiliation to the local community and this project was one we were delighted to be able to support.

"The Friends of Hornfair Park group is doing great work to improve the park's facilities, which is located just the other side of Charlton Park. It's always lovely to see a group of volunteers working together and the

installation of these new benches will really help to provide a family-friendly space that is more accessible and that can be enjoyed by the whole community."

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Left to right: Dominik Tulinski, HGV driver for Selco Builders Warehouse and Carolyn Bellers, branch manager at Selco Builders Warehouse Charlton.

Light-illuminated Stannah passenger lift inspires visitors at Winchester Cathedral

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL, a place of worship for over 900 years, has been brought up to modern accessibility standards with a light-filled passenger lift from Stannah. The installation now sits comfortably alongside the fine craftsmanship within the extraordinary Grade I Listed building.

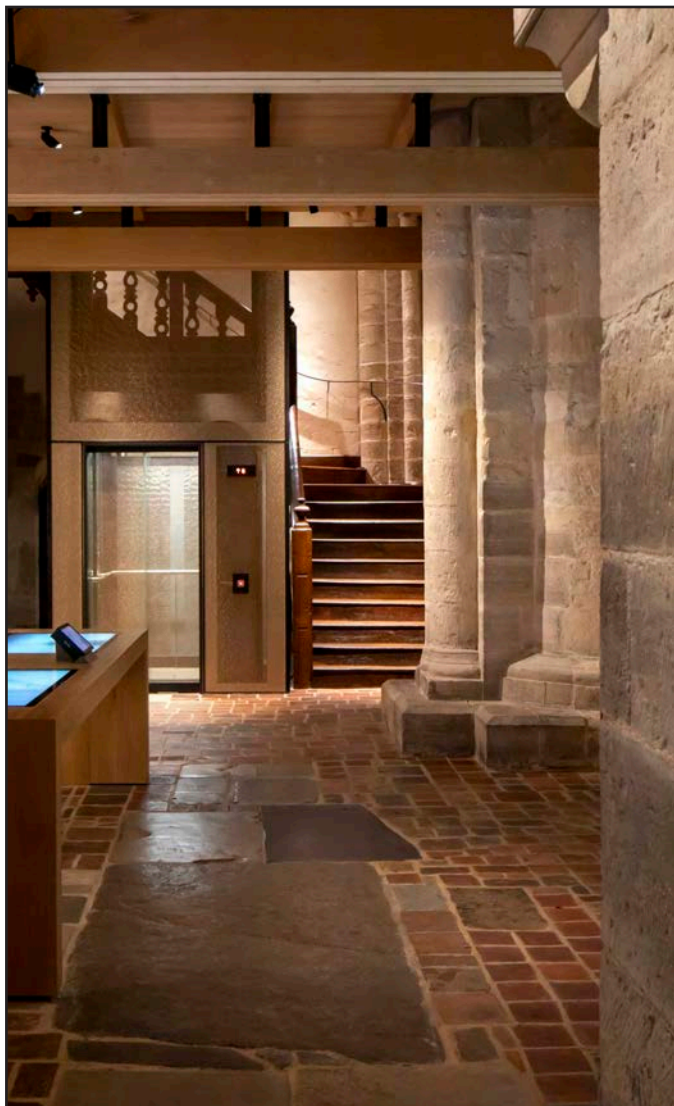
This is one of the first passenger lifts to be installed in a medieval cathedral in the UK, paving the way for other heritage buildings to offer step-free access for visitors.

Central to this lift installation was working within the constraints imposed by the Grade I building of exceptional national, architectural and historical importance and with its own legislative requirements. As part of this, the lift had to be an honest 21st century addition to the cathedral.

The present cathedral was begun in 1079 and is one of the largest medieval gothic structures in Europe. It captures the architectural essence of the 11th to 17th centuries and has been a place of worship for over 900 years, having been a religious site for more than 15 centuries.

The cathedral is the final resting place for many, including Saxon royalty, William Rufus and Jane Austen, the novelist.

The £11.5 million invested by the National Lottery Heritage Fund scheme enabled the transformation of Winchester Cathedral's South Transept into a fully accessible exhibition space rising through three levels.



The Work

Between 2014 and 2019, Winchester Cathedral underwent an extensive conservation of the existing building materials and other adaptations to improve accessibility.

This included removal of modern elements in the South Transept to form a new exhibition space; improved learning facilities to aid understanding of its medieval heritage; reconfiguration of an existing 17th-century staircase to create space for the lift shaft; a new mezzanine floor and staircase; and the installation of a Stannah passenger lift, which is the first in the UK to travel through a vaulted stone ceiling.

The lift shaft and car incorporated bespoke glass cladding where possible, featuring an interlayer of bronze mesh between the laminated glass panels that enhanced safety and complemented the colour palette throughout the cathedral. Stannah also crafted unique lift landing doors from the same type of glass, providing passengers with illuminated panoramic views as they ascend and descend the South Transept.

The thoughtful design complements the cathedral perfectly. The glazed cladding panels have had a powerfully positive effect on how the lift has been perceived and welcomed by visitors to the cathedral.

The Challenge

The introduction of a lift to provide step-free access to the Morley Library in the South Transept was especially complex, both in terms of design and installation.

Firstly, being a place of worship meant that the cathedral had to remain open for the duration of the work, requiring a carefully planned approach to health and safety. Noise levels, too, had to be kept within agreed levels during the works to avoid disturbing visitors.

This meant that it was not practical to use mechanical excavating equipment to create the lift pit. This had to be carefully excavated using hand tools, initially by the cathedral archaeologist working alone, and in the final stages by a team working under his supervision.

The excavation revealed the original, eleventh-century footings of the walls and piers of this part of the cathedral, down to the level of the top of the piles that had been driven into the soft ground at the start of construction in 1079. A surface of flints in mortar 400 mm below the present pavement was identified as a temporary working surface created during the construction of the Norman cathedral. Two exploratory boreholes were drilled in order to investigate the strata below the level of the actual lift pit.

In addition, a piling rig was required to create piles in the ground structure to house the lift's hydraulic ram and this had to be brought to the South Transept in sections because of its size, and then assembled ready for use.

Creating the lift pit and pile allowed for the installation of a robust lift and the Stannah team collaborated with Nick Cox Architects to create a design that met all requirements. The lift shaft travels through a late eleventh-century groin vault and this aperture was created by working with historical consultants. The Cathedral acted as principal contractor managing specialist subcontractors.

Given the historic significance and medieval construction of Winchester Cathedral, the passenger lift shaft structure had to be self supporting, while maintaining a gap between the shaft and the groin vault it passes through ensuring preservation of the historic structure. This gap acts as a protective barrier preventing any potential mechanical damage that could be caused by vibrations from the moving lift.

The Result

The installation of a bespoke Stannah passenger lift now provides step-free access to the Morley Library and Triforium in the South Transept, which contains a new exhibition space.

The first thing that strikes observers is that the Stannah passenger lift solution maintains existing levels of natural light within this part of the cathedral. The elegant design does this using glass cladding on the shaft



and lift car, meaning that the glass is a physical barrier, rather than an optical one.

If the lift shaft and car had been designed with solid panels it would have blocked out natural light that illuminates the floor area below. In this way, use of glass cladding as part of a 21st century design, is one that would be respected by the original 12th century stonemasons.

When viewed from the ground floor the lift shaft and car are imperceptible to the observer, an approach that is enhanced by the use of bronze surrounds which harmonise with the other palettes in this medieval structure. Using transparent materials also offers passengers

an inspiring view as they ascend and descend through the cathedral, a very clever way of redirecting focus to the cathedral itself.

In 2021 this remarkable project wowed the judges securing four Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) awards; RIBA South Award, RIBA South Conservation Award, RIBA South Client of the Year Award and RIBA National Award. Prior to this, the project won the prestigious UK Heritage Award that celebrates the best historic sites and museums.

The architect's view

Nick Cox said: "Projects in historic settings stand apart from other work due to the high level of sensitivity required to respect the existing built fabric and ambience of the space. At Winchester Cathedral we had to deliver a technically complex piece of construction that respected the medieval architecture whilst clearly being a 21st century design.

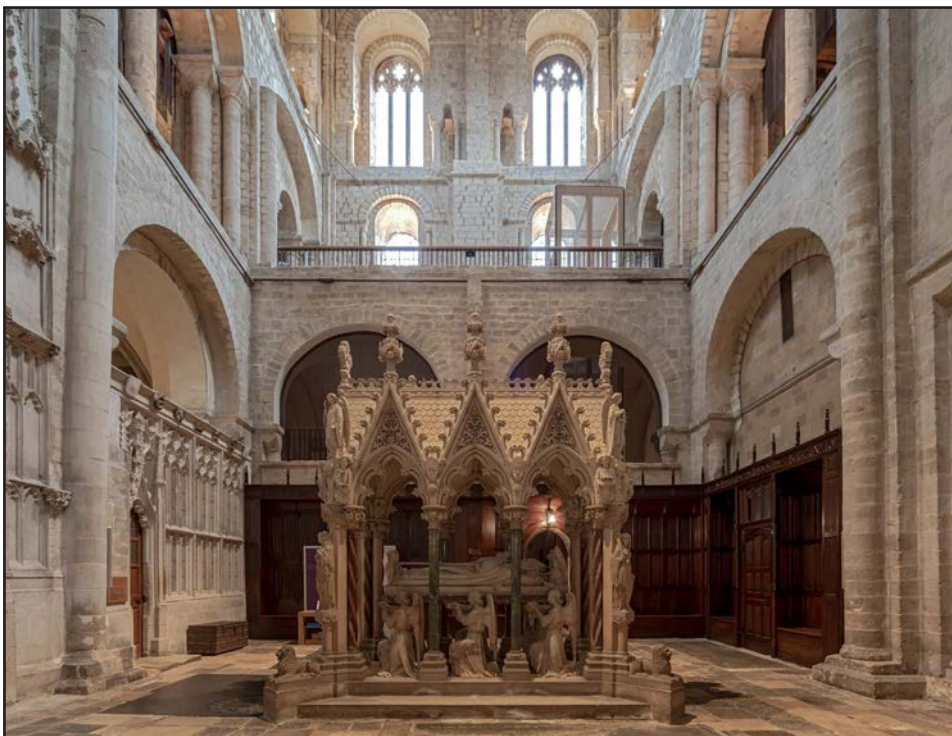
"The bespoke service offered by Stannah Major Projects was an integral part of achieving the design solution. It not only achieved the primary aim of accessibility for all but also provided the aesthetic transparency we needed together with an operating system that preserved the tranquility of the space. It is a centrepiece to the overall scheme."

Stannah Major Projects Division is a specialist area of the business that works on lifts for technically complex projects such as infrastructure, heritage and other sectors.

Architects and developers working on heritage buildings can contact Stannah's specialist team for guidance on the different types of passenger lifts available for unique project requirements.

Stannah

<http://www.stannahlifts.co.uk>



Streamlining production with Aston University

THE UK's longest-operating manufacturer, supplier and importer of ceramic tiles has joined forces with Aston University in a Management Knowledge Transfer Partnership (mKTP).

Shropshire-based Craven Dunnill, which has been in business for over 150 years, has a large and complex supply chain, both of finished tiles and of the raw materials for manufacturing. Its customers are consumers, merchants, property developers, bathroom and kitchen retailers, in addition to architectural and building communities.

A KTP is a three-way collaboration between a business, an academic partner and a highly qualified researcher, known as a KTP associate. The UK-wide programme helps businesses to improve their competitiveness and productivity through the better use of knowledge, technology and skills. Aston University is a sector leading KTP provider, with 80% of its completed projects being graded as very good or outstanding by Innovate UK, the national body. An mKTP focuses specifically on increasing effectiveness and improving results through better management practices.

The company wants to fully streamline and digitise its processes and practices, including ordering, purchasing, stock and warehouse management, as well as delivery planning and sales tracking. It would also see the company's different business divisions integrated.

Developing an accurate real

-time warehouse management system is a key part of the project as, currently, different production batches vary slightly in colour and size, making it crucial not to mix them when fulfilling orders.

The company is working with Aston University's Professor Ben Clegg and Dr Gajanan Panchal (academic lead and supervisor) from Aston Business School. Professor Clegg, a professor of operations management, has pioneered a successful methodology called Process Oriented Holonic Modelling (ProH Modelling), a way of fully engaging employees in organisational change using systems modelling and storyboarding, that will be used to help Craven Dunnill's employees to guide and implement new processes. Dr Panchal specialises in logistics and supply chain management, including warehouse management and optimisation. He uses

a variety of approaches to comprehend and analyse problems with warehousing operations.

Completing the team in the KTP associate position is Dr Olanrewaju Sanda, who has started analysing the issues in the warehouse including the data around inventory accuracy and stock selection. Working closely with management and the Aston University team, he will digitalise operational systems. Part of this will include building a digital dashboard to represent the factory and move it towards a 'digital twin'.

Aston University
www.aston.ac.uk



NAS announces partnership with HSS ProService

THE National Association of Shopfitters (NAS) is pleased to announce an exciting collaboration with HSS ProService, believed to be the UK's foremost tool and equipment hire company. This partnership marks a significant milestone in NAS's commitment to supporting shopfitters across the UK.

Founded in 1957, HSS ProService has garnered over 60 years of industry experience, establishing itself as a trusted leader in the tool and equipment hire sector. With a legacy built on reliability and innovation, HSS ProService's expertise ensures that customers receive unparalleled service and support, with market leading technology to help them get the job done.

The partnership between NAS and HSS ProService signifies a shared commitment to providing NAS members with access to top-of-the-line rental solutions. Through this collaboration, shopfitters nationwide will have access to a comprehensive range of tools, equipment, and machinery at preferential rates.

"Our partnership with HSS ProService represents a significant step forward in our mission to promote, support and develop shopfitters across the UK. With HSS ProService's extensive experience and commitment to excellence, we are confident that this collaboration will deliver exceptional value to our members," said James Filus, NAS Director.

HSS ProService's comprehensive inventory includes power tools, access equipment, and specialist machinery, ensuring that shopfitters have access to the right tools for the job. With a focus on quality and service, HSS ProService is dedicated to meeting the diverse needs of its customers and providing unmatched support throughout the rental process.

"We are delighted to partner with the National Association of Shopfitters to offer our industry-leading hire solutions to their members. Together, we are committed to driving efficiency and cost savings in the

shopfitting sector, delivering shopfitters the tools they need to succeed all with the latest technology to support them," said Jon Overman, chief revenue officer, HSS ProService.

As part of the partnership, NAS members will have access to exclusive discounts and benefits on HSS ProService's rental offerings. NAS members will now be able to rent core equipment such as towers, lighting and drilling at highly reduced rates, providing exceptional value for their hire needs. HSS ProService will also provide NAS members with preferential rates on other equipment such as scissor lifts, boom lifts and access platforms. Coverage is nationwide across all HSS ProService locations.

National Association of Shopfitters
<https://www.shopfitters.org/hss-proservice/>



Selco supports sustainable school scheme in Nottingham

A NOTTINGHAM primary school embarking on a sustainability journey for its pupils has received the support of one of the UK's leading builders merchants.

Green-fingered children from Snape Wood Primary School, based on Aspen Road in Bulwell, have come together to begin the 'Dig Deep for Trees' project.

The youngsters have planted more than 50 fruit trees donated by the Woodland Trust — including cherry, pear and apple trees — and plan to use the fruit for school dinner recipes and to take home.

Selco Builders Warehouse, which has a branch on Radford Road in Nottingham, has donated more than £950 worth of materials, including wood and other products to create planters, as well as garden rakes.

Kymerley Grant, Parent Governor at Snape Wood, said: "It's a really exciting project and the children have loved every second of planting the trees."

"As a school community, we want our children to embrace and enjoy the natural world, to understand the sustainability elements



Pictured back row from left are Selco Builders Warehouse driver Ian 'Baggy' Baxter, Adam Newbold of Selco Builders Warehouse, Chris Johnson, Deputy Head Teacher, Snape Wood Primary School and Parent Governor Kymerley Grant with children Enoch, Grace, Kimauri, Iris, Emmie, Azaliah, Holly, Muhammad and Kason.

that this type of scheme can bring and to provide hands-on experience of outdoor learning.

"It's been fantastic to engage with different areas of the local

community and Selco have been incredibly generous with their donation, enabling us to create an outdoor area we are extremely proud of."

Adam Newbold, trade sales manager at Selco Nottingham said: "We are delighted to be supporting the project at Snape Wood."

"As a business, we are fully committed to operating as sustainably as possible so to see a local school doing likewise is fantastic. As soon as we heard about the scheme, we had no hesitation in agreeing to a donation and we look forward to following the project closely, as well as seeing the children develop their love of the outdoors."

With hundreds of trade brands always in stock, Selco's 75 UK branches are firmly focused on helping tradespeople complete their jobs as quickly and effectively as possible.

As well as offering trade services, Selco also has a strong digital presence including Click & Deliver and Click & Collect services and a new app — as well as a 'Dial & Deliver' telephone service — to make life as convenient as possible for tradespeople.

Selco
www.selcobw.com



Pictured are Adam Newbold of Selco Builders Warehouse and Parent Governor Kymerley Grant with children Iris and Azaliah getting in some apple eating practice!

Call for entries: Wood Awards 2024

ENTER the Wood Awards by 24 May (for free!) to join a celebration of the very best of timber design, craftsmanship and installation.

The Wood Awards is the UK's premier competition for architecture and product design in wood — setting the benchmark, year-on-year, for timber excellence.

With ten dedicated categories, the awards welcome outstanding timber projects of all shapes, sizes and stripes.

Entries are divided into two main categories: 'Buildings' and 'Furniture & Object'. Within Buildings there are six project categories: 'Education & Public', 'Small Project', 'Private', 'Commercial & Leisure', 'Restoration & Reuse', and 'Interiors'. There are four project categories to enter in Furniture & Object: 'Bespoke Furniture', 'Production Furniture', 'Sculpted Object', and 'Student'.

As well as selecting a winner and highly commended project for each of the ten categories, the judges nominate recipients for special awards, at their discretion, including the Structural and Sustainability Awards, and the prestigious Gold Award – given to the winner of winners.

Entries will be judged by two



panels of influential professionals from across the UK architecture and design industry. The fully independent judges assess each submission, and will visit every shortlisted project in person, making the Wood Awards an exceptionally rigorous competition.

The buildings panel is led by Jim Greaves, Principal at Hopkins Architects, and includes specially selected experts to judge the sustainability and structural merits of entries. The furniture and product panel is this year chaired by

award-winning furniture designer and maker Sebastian Cox.

Keep a look out for upcoming announcements about the 2024 judges.

Established in 1971, the Wood Awards is believed to be unique in its integrity and longevity. It is entirely non-profit — aiming only to recognise excellence — and is judged in-person by elite panels of independent experts.

Committed to being affordable and accessible to all, including small companies, studios, work-

shops, and individual designer-makers, the Wood Awards continues to be completely free to enter.

Each shortlisted project is displayed in a public exhibition as part of Material Matters design fair as well as published on the Wood Awards website, showcasing the achievements of entrants to a wide design audience. Culminating the awards, the winners are announced at a prestigious ceremony at Carpenter's Hall and receive hand-crafted timber trophies.

With permission from the owner, anyone associated with a building or product that has been completed in the last two years is able to enter. Buildings must be located within the UK, whilst furniture and other products must have been either designed or manufactured in the UK. Fitted furniture must be in the UK. There are no restrictions on the size or budget of a project. Entrants are welcome to submit more than one project.

All entries must be submitted via the Wood Awards website. Please note that there is no entry fee for submission.

As a not-for-profit competition, the Wood Awards can only happen with collaborative industry sponsorship.

Major Sponsors of the Wood Awards 2024 include Carpenters Company, American Hardwood Export Council and Timber Development UK.

Wood Awards
info@woodawards.com
www.woodawards.com



Serenade by John Makepeace OBE — Bespoke Furniture winner, 2023.



SMART &
HUMAN

INNOVATION

Integrated and digital solutions
for the industry of the future

OUR WOODWORKING TECHNOLOGIES, YOUR VISION

Furniture, windows and doors, flooring, timber construction, surface treatment, marine, and bespoke joinery: SCM technologies and services for the entire secondary woodworking industry meet all your production requirements.

Visit us at **Xylexpo 2024** from **21 to 24 May** to discover the latest **SCM integrated process solutions** dedicated to every application field. We will welcome you in an **innovative space**, designed to offer a engaging and **interactive experience** in technology innovation.

You will be able to discover the unique and superior design effects achievable with SCM machinery, the many proactive services provided by **Maestro connect lot** platform and our new **Digital Control Room** guaranteeing your operational continuity.

Our team is looking forward to amazing you. Don't miss it!

Xylexpo

21-24 May 2024
Rho Fiera, Milan
HALL 3

www.scmwood.com

DISCOVER MORE



scm
woodworking technology

is more

New timber design conference

TIMBER DEVELOPMENT UK (TDUK) is proud to announce an exciting new conference focused on a low carbon transformation of the built environment using timber.

Taking place on 26 June 2024, the UK Timber Design Conference will bring together disruptors and market leaders to discuss how we can create systemic change, usher in a net zero future, and break down the barriers to timber in construction.

From the halls of Hamilton House in London, over 200 delegates from right across the timber supply chain — including leading developers, local authorities, insurers, engineers, architects, contractors and more — will be inspiring a new wave of timber design. Supported by Swedish Wood and Built by Nature, this conference will be the must-attend event of the summer for anyone interested in designing or building with wood, according to TDUK.

Speakers already announced include the teams behind the incoming Phoenix in Lewes, set to be the UK's largest timber development, Goldsmith Street, the Stirling Prize winning council led development in Norwich, and the pioneering Black & White building in London.

Discussion will centre on a diverse range of timber typologies and applications, from private to public, and residential to commercial. A range of exciting speakers will set out the opportunities in the UK for timber construction.

TDUK chief executive David Hopkins said: "Timber can play such an instrumental role in helping the UK level up and create a built environment which works in tandem, rather than opposition, with nature. This is already being demonstrated through some incredible

projects, which will be on display at this conference. What we need to see now is a transformation which means these world-leading developments and buildings are the norm — not the exception. That timber construction is the go-to option, as we strive to meet our net zero targets. This conference will bring together agents of change who can accelerate this transformation. With tickets limited, we expect this conference will sell out fast — so we strongly recommend getting in quick."

Book your tickets online from Timber Development UK. Member tickets are £30, while non-Member tickets are £100. Please note lunch is provided along with evening drinks.

Timber Development UK

<https://timberdevelopment.uk/uk-timber-design-conference/>



The poster for the UK Timber Design Conference features the logos of Timber Development UK, Swedish Wood, and Built by Nature at the top. The main title "UK TIMBER DESIGN CONFERENCE" is prominently displayed in large, bold, dark green letters. Below the title, the event details are listed: "09:30-17:00, 26 June 2024" and "Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London, WC1H 9BD". On the right side, there are three circular images showing various timber buildings and construction scenes.

TDUK partners with Carrefour International du Bois

TIMBER DEVELOPMENT UK (TDUK), the UK's largest trade association for the timber supply chain, is partnering with Carrefour International du Bois, the largest timber trade show in Europe, to offer VIP networking opportunities.

Under the terms of the partnership TDUK will be offering limited-edition VIP Tickets (free for TDUK members) to the conference, taking place from 28-30 May 2024 in Nantes, France.

These VIP Tickets allow members to benefit from special networking opportunities, access to the VIP/Press Lounge with free coffee and soft drinks, and an invitation to the closing Gala Drinks Networking event.

Speaking about the partnership, TDUK CEO David Hopkins, said: "We're very pleased to be partnering with Carrefour International du Bois this year. Europe is the UK's main source of supply for all timber products and Carrefour attracts the widest range of companies covering all product bases. TDUK acts as a window into the UK market for overseas suppliers, so we are looking forward to the networking opportunities this brings to both sides. These relationships are crucial, and we look forward to seeing many members there."

David will be a key speaker at the Carrefour International du Bois session "Timber Architecture and Global Trends" on Tuesday 29 May alongside speakers from across France. During the session he will outline of the UK Govern-

ment's "Timber in Construction Roadmap" as well as a new publication from TDUK, Timber Policy, a comparative study of policies across Europe which aim to encourage a greater use of timber in construction.

Carrefour International du Bois is the largest timber trade show in Europe, bringing together hundreds of exhibitors and thousands of international visitors over three days in Nantes, France from 28-30 May 2024.

Tickets to join TDUK at Carrefour International du Bois as a VIP delegate are very limited, so book your place now if you wish to join. TDUK Members can apply for these limited-edition VIP Tickets here: https://portal.timberdevelopment.uk/Web/Events/Event_Display.aspx?EventKey=CIB24

Carrefour du Bois ● www.timbershow.com



The poster for Carrefour International du Bois 2024 features a stylized illustration of a timber building and trees. The text "CARREFOUR INTERNATIONAL DU BOIS" is prominently displayed in large, bold, orange letters. To the right, the dates "28|29|30 MAY 2024" and "NANTES FRANCE" are listed. Below the main title, it says "AT THE HEART OF THE TRADE". At the bottom, there is a circular icon of a smartphone with a person's silhouette, and the text "YOUR FREE BADGE ON TIMBERSHOW.COM".

XYZ at Materials & Finishes Show 2024

XYZ, a leading provider of CNC router solutions, is pleased to announce its participation in the upcoming Materials and Finishes Show 2024, the UK's primary platform for carpenters, joiners, machinists and installers to see running wood-working machinery, the latest materials, components, software, tools and innovations for the woodworking sector. Scheduled to take place from May 19th to 22nd, 2024 at the NEC Birmingham.

XYZ will be showcasing one of its flagship products, the XYZ WOODWORKER, at Stand K25. This cutting-edge CNC router is renowned for its precision, reliability and versatility, making it an indispensable tool for woodworking professionals across various industries.

The XYZ WOODWORKER offers state-of-the-art features designed to streamline wood-working processes, enhance productivity and deliver exceptional results. With its advanced technology and user-friendly interface, it empowers users to bring their creative visions to life with ease.

Key features of the XYZ WOODWORKER CNC Router include:

Versatile Process Areas: the WOODWORKER boasts a wide variety of process areas that can accommodate all standard sheet sizes, with a remarkable 254 mm (10") high gantry clearance. This flexibility makes it easy to use with accessories such as vacuum pods or a rotary axis device, enhancing productivity and precision.

Exceptional Performance: equipped with powerful direct

servo drives and helical racks, the WOODWORKER delivers outstanding performance, high-speed cutting, and impeccable finishes across a wide range of wood types. It excels even with phenolic-based products like High Pressure Laminate (HPL).

Multiple Spindle Configurations: the WOODWORKER offers a choice of a single 5, 10 or 15 HP HSD spindle, allowing users to tailor their setup to match specific production requirements. Additionally, a 9-position drill bank can be added to the multi-head configuration for faster and more productive operations.

Efficient Tool Changing: with a selection of 7, 10, 14 or 21 position automatic tool changers, the WOOD-

WORKER ensures fast and efficient tool changes, minimising downtime and maximising productivity.

Advanced Dust Collection: the router features a high-volume 4" dust collection system, complemented by an oversized dust boot, high-flow manifold, and hose management system. This comprehensive setup effectively collects both large chips and fine dust, maintaining a clean and safe working environment.

Automated Label Printing: the WOODWORKER offers an optional XYZ Automated Label Printer (ALP), simplifying the identification of parts during the final assembly process. This integrated solution streamlines operations and enhanced overall efficiency.

Rotary Axis Equipment: for machining complex parts requiring 360° rotation, the WOODWORKER offers optional rotary axis equipment. This feature expands the router's capabilities and enables the production of intricate and precise parts.

When it comes to furniture and cabinet making, the XYZ WOODWORKER is the ultimate CNC solution, according to the company.

XYZ has put extensive effort into developing a machine that seamlessly combines power, versatility, and precision to meet the unique needs of woodworking professionals.

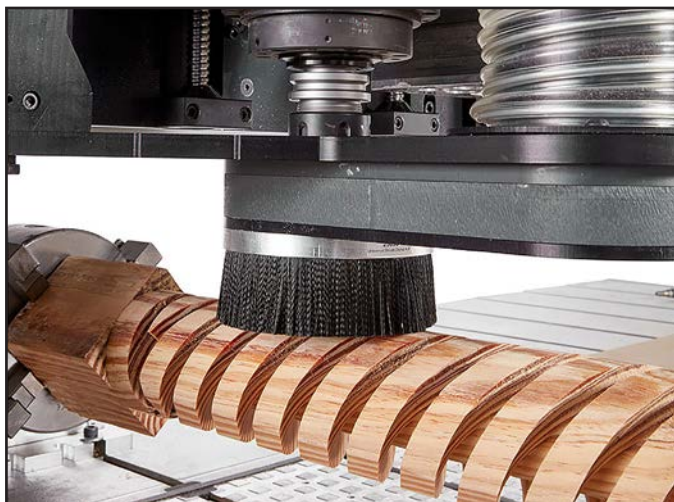
In addition to the exhibition of the XYZ WOODWORKER, XYZ will have dedicated staff from CNCSHOP on-site to provide expert guidance, answer questions and offer insights into maximising the potential of CNC woodworking solutions.

XYZ are delighted to participate in the Materials and Finishes Show 2024 and to showcase their cutting-edge woodworking solutions. The XYZ WOODWORKER represents the pinnacle of CNC router technology, according to the company, and they look forward to demonstrating its capabilities to attendees at Stand K25.

The Materials and Finishes Show 2024 is a premier event for professionals in the materials and finishes industry, providing a platform for networking, knowledge-sharing and discovering the latest innovations. XYZ's participation underscores its commitment to delivering innovative solutions that meet the evolving needs of its customers.

Visit XYZ at Stand K25 to experience first-hand the power and precision of the XYZ WOODWORKER and learn more about how XYZ and CNCSHOP can support your woodworking endeavours.

XYZ
Tel 01952 291600
<https://www.xyz.com>



SCM's Smart&Human evolution at Xylexpo

SCM is getting ready for the up-and-coming edition of Xylexpo with a full programme of technological and digital innovations, thanks to the level of new entries which the Italian group has in store for the entire secondary wood processing sector, and for the completely new presentation procedures.

Visitors will have a chance to explore the technologies, software and digital services which best suit their production needs in a completely new fashion, with state-of-the-art multimedia and immersive tools which will project Xylexpo visitors even further into the future of woodworking and into the heart of SCM's complete and limitless production range.

A Smart&Human evolution which will focus on everything new within the automated, integrated and complete processes, designed to meet the new production challenges dedicated to every field of application: furnishings and kitchens, windows and doors, flooring, timber construction, surface treatment, nautical and caravan industry, and joinery.

Integrated and advanced ma-

chines and systems will be showcased for each sector with the additional integration of CMS — an SCM Group company — technologies to machine material like glass, stone, metal, plastic and composites. Solutions aimed at making the processes more sustainable and efficient even in batch-1 production and at achieving bespoke products with an, as ever, outstanding quality and level of design.

Plenty of space will also be reserved for software and digital services designed to accompany the client at each stage of the production process.

The new digital services enabled by the IoT Maestro connect platform also available in the new mobile version, will be on display. The continuous exchange of information from the machine to the cloud means SCM can provide clients with rapid access to answers and specific advice which will assist the operators with their challenges and needs for autonomy demands, carrying out of maintenance and programming the machine and software.

On the subject of which, a full-

ly operational version of SCM's Digital Control Room will be reproduced, offering the chance to discover how the data is processed to provide proactive and advisory assistance services, with the aim of guaranteeing the client production continuity thanks to the most evolved digital technologies and the constant dedication of SCM's Service team.

Also making its debut is SCM's new MES, with even better performance levels and fully adaptable to the client's needs. Some of the main advantages include easy configuration of the interfaces and the possibility of integrating with software and third-party digital services already provided by the client; an opening that SCM is placing increasingly more at the centre of its digital offer thanks to the partnership programmes developed with external house software.

The new eye-M console for all of SCM's machines brings the bonus of ergonomics and ease of use to make the operator's work easier. It boasts modular programming and increased computing power.

The common advantages of a large number of the group's new software include reduced expenditure and less material waste coupled with greater efficiency.

With regard to CNC machining centres and drilling solutions, SCM will present Maestro lab for both office and machine CAD/CAM programming. Intuitive and dynamic, this software transforms an idea into a finished product thanks to intelligent and technologically advanced programming functions and more than 150 already integrated apps. From the office to the factory in a flash via a pleasant and fast user experience.

Maestro active beam&wall is the new HMI software dedicated to CNC machining centres for timber construction. It allows quick, easy and all-round control, thanks to new functions such as 3D visualisation and advanced user management as well as a totally renewed graphic interface aligned with that of the latest generation of software.

For the beam saw, Maestro optiwise is the new cutting optimization software for the Gabbiani panel saws. Developed for





programming production in the office, the software allows for the automatic generation of cutting diagrams identifying the best solution in terms of waste, time and costs based on the parameters selected by the user.

Also showcasing is the Maestro stackwise, a state-of-the-art solution designed to increase efficiency and productivity. The system uses advanced algorithms to analyse and optimise piece stacking during the made-to-measure cutting process, ensuring that they are strategically placed to achieve maximum efficiency, reducing scraps to a minimum and maximising return.

New entries also for edge-banding with Maestro edgestore manager for the centralised management of client's edges, which allows their consumption to constantly be kept under control and their location in the warehouse, as well as sharing information with the software and the company management systems.

Another important new entry will be the opening of the new SCM-Superfici Technology Centre in Villasanta (MB), which can be visited during the trade fair, just 30 minutes from Rho-Milano.

These spaces have been extended and modernised to offer a wider range of technologies: not just the Superfici solutions for finishing and the SCM ones for sanding and pressing, but also other group technologies, to complete the clients' processes.

Automation systems

Beam saw for batch 1 made up of: Flexstore elr automatic storage, for better logistics of semi-machined pieces; single-blade Gabbiani g2 panel saw complete with, among other things, automatic panel labelling; articulated robot to automate the cutting and off-loading operations, reducing the need for human supervision.

The cell offers great flexibility when dealing with processes at source because it allows the finished pieces to be unloaded onto pallets on the ground and on the roller. There is also a vertical buffer in the cell, downstream of the unloading roller, which optimises the workflow efficiently separating the cutting cell from the next machining processes.

Beam saw and nesting cell for batch 1 with Flexstore hp automatic storage and robot for unloading finished pieces, small

pieces and scraps. Gabbiani p80 beam saw and Morbidelli x200 nesting machining centre are integrated in the automatic storage which allows the panels to be stocked, labelled and loaded directly onto the worktable of both machines, protecting the most delicate surfaces. Simultaneously, the Gabbiani p80 beam saw can perform stack cutting with high levels of productivity.

Cargo is a patented automatic loading and unloading system that can be integrated with the Morbidelli m200 and Accord 500/600 CNC machining centres for the machining of panels and doors.

The fully automated cell requires no operator supervision and is believed to be unique on the market in carrying out continuous loading and unloading of pieces in masked time, while the machine performs drilling and routing. Maximum levels of efficiency are thus achieved, avoiding manual work steps and the associated costs and unproductive time. All this with unprecedented ease of use because both the machining centre and Cargo are managed directly from the Maestro active HMI.

The Morbidelli cx220 drilling and dowelling flexible cell with robot to create every kind of furniture element more efficiently, even with pieces that differ greatly from one another. The cell produces one panel per minute and up to more than 400 panels per shift with an operator in just 50 m². It can be used with just the robot for continuous production, or with partial operator supervision.

For windows and doors manufacturing, the new version of Windorflex will be on show, the automatic and technological machining cell for processing complete window frames, always guaranteeing the best accuracy, high flexibility and superior finish quality.

The new machine version is featured with two handling devices for the work-pieces loading, with the aim to increase performance and productivity, and the front loading bench, to reduce the longitudinal footprint.

Beam saw

The Gabbiani p range expands with the new Gabbiani p95 and Gabbiani pt95 panel saws, designed respectively for batch-1 machining and series production.

All the options in the higher range best loved by the market regarding the SCM beam saw can be found in these new models: the Flexcut unit for side-by-side bars up to 600 mm, blade motors with a power of up to 18.5 kW and LED indicators of both front and rear loading, in the presence of an lifting table.

Edgebanding

Making its début is the Stefani m, an industrial edge bander representing a highly competitive investment, with advanced technological solutions for automatic set-up. Excellent machining quality is the great advantage of this edgebanding solution which has operating units with servo-assisted technologies to continually guarantee top design levels.

The offer of the Olympic edgebanders for artisan businesses is also renewed. At the top of the range, the Olympic 500plus, available with or without axes to machine 2 different radii. The hot-air gluing device guarantees an invisible line of glue for top-quality levels of design.

Also showcasing is the Olympic 500 complete, versatile and compact edgebander, capable of performing different machining work, while always offering high

standards of quality. Available both in the pneumatic and electronic set-up version, Olympic 500 allows for machining with 2 radii, each with dedicated tool, for panels with a minimum width of 60 mm.

The entry-level Olympic 300 will also be on show, offering excellent quality and versatility for small craft businesses looking to make their mark on the market. Available in manual and automatic version, Olympic 300 is simple to use and guarantees very quick set-up times.

In the case of edgebanding, SCM also presents new pre-melters, transversal to the Stefani and Olympic ranges: innovative glue fusion solutions with versatile devices for EVA and PUR glue.

Drilling

Among the solutions on show is the Morbidelli pwx500, a flexible, high-productivity drilling machine for fast, top-quality processing. Perfect for connected and integrated production and to achieve highly competitive standards on medium and large batches. Plant availability is 10% higher than market standards because the drilling machine can work intensively over several shifts and significantly reduces

tooling changes and other operations that cause unproductive time.

Surface treatment

For sanding, SCM will present its exclusive multifunctional roller unit available on the DMC sd 90 model: this unit allows you to switch from calibration to sanding operations on solid wood, raw, veneered and polished panels in a matter of minutes, by simply change out the rubber coating. With this new configuration, the machine becomes more flexible, versatile and compact, and as a result, is ideal for positioning even in the narrowest spaces.

Also on display is the DMC system with a laser engraving unit. This innovative unit can create exclusive finishing and three-dimensional marking on wood flooring, solid wood elements, MDF panels to be veneered, fibre cement panels and solid surfaces of any length. Furthermore, the exclusive Self-Refilling technology—a distinctive bonus of SCM's laser unit—guarantees the same process parameters and the same power over time, without interrupting the workflow.

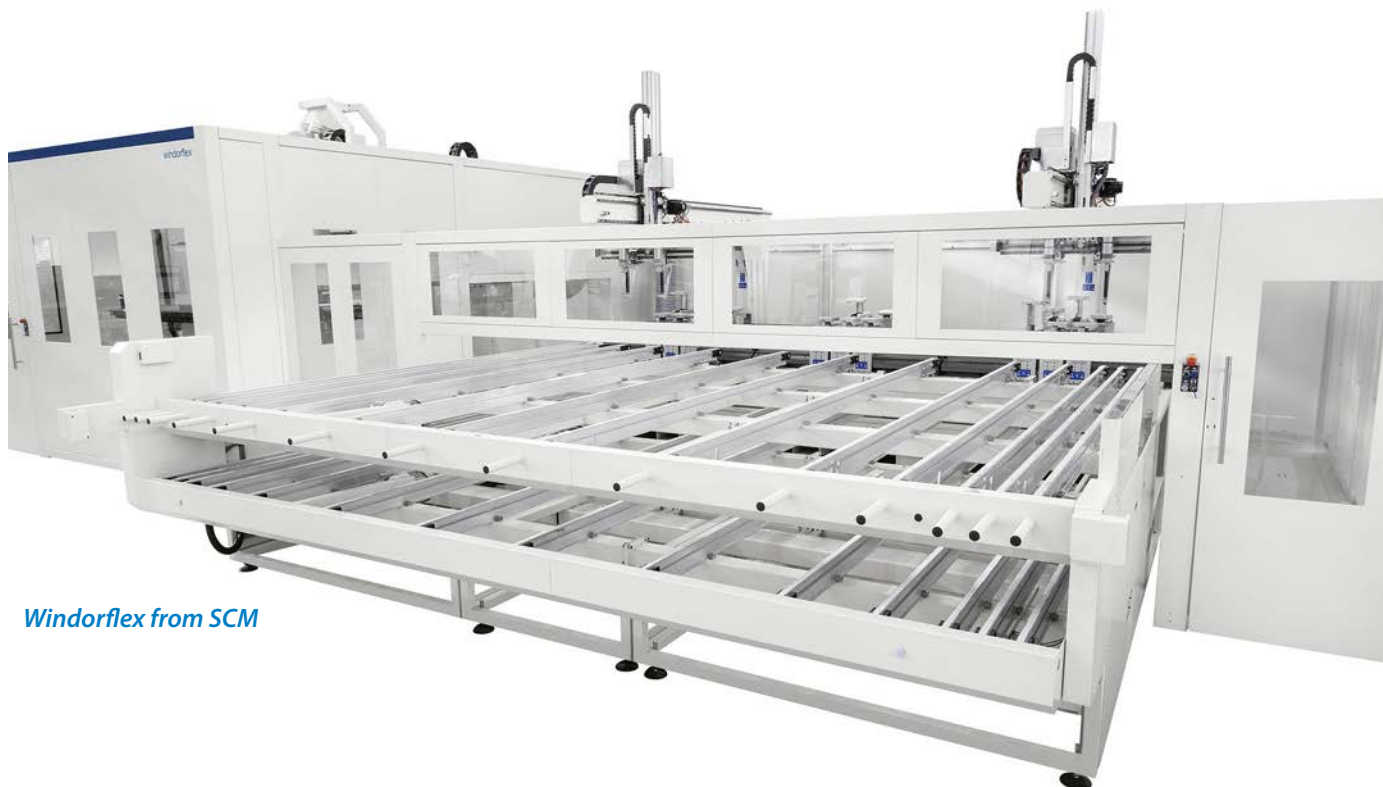
For finishing, Superfici will present state-of-the-art UV processes like an excimer treatment

with exclusive excimatt technology for a finish on the most extensive range of finished products and material. The significant advantage is the ability to generate extra-opacity effects while being equally surprisingly smooth, without further compromises on the mechanical and chemical surface resistance.

Also being showcased is a UV LED polymerisation system with several UV monochromatic sources which, thanks to Superfici's patented system, manages to radiate at different wavelengths for greater efficiency. UV LED matrix guarantees all the typical advantages of LED polymerisation, ensuring comparable performances with standard UV polymerisation.

Space is also made for the robotic sprayer which offers excellent flexibility to machining, while keeping the end product quality level extremely high. In particular, the following will be on display: robot maestro for painting windows and doors, designed by Superfici starting with the arm movement of an artisan and converted into an articulated robot, now available with 8 axes to machine even larger windows and doors; robot bravo2, a Cartesian robot for painting panels with two 5-axis heads which guarantees an





Windorflex from SCM

unprecedented quality, precision, reliability and delicacy, together with the speed and production continuity of an automatic spraying system.

Assembly

Showcasing for assembly work is Action e, now available with a new loading and unloading system: an efficient aid for assembling the piece of furniture at the working height of the clamp and pushing it into the pressing area as well as for positioning the pieces of assembled furniture in vertical and transporting them to the next work area.

Packaging

The new range of Cut C packaging solutions with cardboard will be presented for the production of just-in-time bespoke boxes and the new pack c100 for the automatic closure of die-cut cardboard boxes using hot-melt glue.

Timber construction

Showcasing is the Oikos xs, highly versatile CNC machining centre, ideal for companies looking for high speed and precision, combined with a small footprint and low cost. This solution is suitable for the production of straight beams, prefabricated walls, trusses, roofs and blockhouses, i.e. structural elements requiring both very fast operations such as cutting, and more complex machining such as drilling, routing, dovetails and slots for hardware, on pieces that can have a maximum length of 16 metres, a maximum width of 450 mm and a maximum thickness of 240 mm.

The DMC system xl will be presented for the automatic sanding-calibrating of CLT panels, nowadays with three new units: bottom lower roller unit and top/bottom pad unit to machine both the upper face and the lower one of the CLT panels up to 3700 mm in width and 500 mm thick, and the transversal "piggyback" crossbelt unit, a solution developed to optimise the machine's spaces and guarantee as little space as possible being taken up. These modules are

fully combinable and can be integrated with one another to suit the client's production needs, for a top-quality finished product and in line with current market demands which favour exposed walls.

Squaring-tenoning and profiling

The squaring-tenoning and profiling technology represented by the Celaschi models, will be showcased by its different configurations in all processes, from the throughfeed cutting of panels for the furniture industry to the profiling of inclined parquet; from the machining of insulated material to the tenoning in windows and doors systems with the new Celaschi action double-sided tenoner.

Completing the panorama of applications for this technology will be the interactive model of the Celaschi p60 for 'step' CNC machining, a machine that takes the concept of profiling to a new level.

Joinery machines

Spotlight on the "blade off" safety system which will be demoed in live streaming from the new Technology Center in Villasanta. This SCM innovative solution responds to the clear requirement of minimising the intrinsic danger of using a circular saw, without limiting the productivity and the operator's creativity.

The presence of the safety system is never invasive and helps to maintain high quality and productivity of operations.

Finally, at Xylexpo SCM will launch the new portable "maker" CNC (pictured left), the mobile numerical control router, capable of autonomously creating unique and complex objects, without having to dedicate permanent space in the workshop. A new CNC designed for wood enthusiasts, craftsmen and businesses, looking for a flexible tool capable of working even on large surfaces.



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Rotpunkt reports a new appetite for sustainable materials

ROTPUNKT, an award-winning designer and manufacturer of climate friendly German kitchen furniture for the contemporary home is thrilled with the overwhelming response to its latest designs and product innovations following its participation in this year's kbb Birmingham on 3rd to 6th March 2024.

Celebrating its highest visitor turnout in 10 years, kbb Birmingham 2024 attracted 17,150 visitors over the four-day event, where Stand Q90 fast became a must-see destination for Rotpunkt customers.

Matt Phillips, Head of UK Operations at Rotpunkt says "We have received really positive feedback in response to our constantly evolving 'Welcome Home' concept where we make furniture for the kitchen and utility space, living room, home office and walk-in dressing areas to create all inclusive home environments, which are climate friendly by design. Our strength to deliver a new range of interior design solutions for the contemporary home, which answer current trends and support the Future Homes Standard



coming into effect in 2025, means that we can furnish our customers with a constant stream of market leading furniture that is built for now, and mutually beneficial."

For the duration of the show, Rotpunkt showcased its range of

2024 innovations from Stand Q90, which offered 130 sq m of the latest kitchen, living and wardrobe concepts across four complete kitchen displays, one walk-in dressing room, a custom media lounge and hidden utility room.

Direct feedback at the show centred around the company's 'Welcome Home' concept, its newly expanded product offer and signature displays.

The latest innovation which received the most attention was the new Illuminated Wall Solutions, a flexible niche system featuring horizontally milled LED smart lighting and customisable kitchen storage with a series of complementary accessories.

Reinforcing the rising trend for integrated lighting in 2024, visitors were inspired to see contemporary kitchen storage presented in a new light and dimension.

The new Italian Walnut effect furniture also proved hugely popular with anyone seeking a premium textured look without the price tag. Providing the ultimate laminate solution for the contemporary kitchen living space, end users liked the fact they could opt for either a horizontal or vertical grain effect to ensure a luxurious finish with custom design appeal. 'Adding character at the right style temperature' according to one visitor, the Smala 12 mm

frame door in new black finish was also commended for being a great alternative to slab doors while answering current trends for modern Shaker-style doors.

From the brand-new 750 mm wide units, industrial-style hardware, and textured stone décors to the expanded range of Memory RI and Fenix colours, Italian Walnut décors, new cabinets for utility rooms and dressing rooms, and additions to the company's signature grey finish library such as Terra Grey and Grigio Londra, Rotpunkt make it easy for UK retailers to support the eco-conscious homeowner.

Committed to setting a new global standard for using sustainable materials in interior design, Rotpunkt found it highly rewarding to share its vision with customers at kbb, along with the long-term benefits of 'going green' through planet-friendly material selection, construction or manufacture.

The company prides itself on working in partnership with both new and established dealers so they can provide client consultations with confidence and effectively be able to deliver on environmentally aware design briefs.

Rotpunkt UK
matt.phillips@rotpunktuk.com
www.rotpunktuechen.de/en/



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SAM Cases elevates packaging precision with AXYZ CNC routers

ESTABLISHED in 1995, SAM Cases has evolved into a prominent player in the field of flight case manufacturing.

Founded by a team of qualified professionals with a deep understanding of packaging and delicate equipment transportation, the company quickly gained recognition for its commitment to quality and innovation.

Specialising in packaging and transporting fragile equipment, the company boasts an impressive client roster including renowned names such as the BBC, Dyson, Chelsea Football Club, LG Electronics, Aardman Animation, Procter and Gamble, BT, the MOD, and various other organisations. SAM Cases is committed to delivering cutting-edge solutions that meet the highest standards of protection and security.

Throughout its journey, SAM Cases consistently incorporated the latest technology and materials into its products. This dedication to innovation became evident in the range of offerings, from sample and demonstration cases to tough and rugged transit/flight cases.

The company embraced waterproof options, integrating re-



nowned case ranges such as Peli, Explorer, Peli Air, Peli Storm, and Peli-Hardigg.

AXYZ Machine Adoption

Since 2009, SAM Cases has been utilising AXYZ machines, start-

ing with the purchase of their first machine. Recognising the efficiency and reliability of AXYZ technology, SAM Cases expanded its capacity by adding a second machine within a few short years. In 2023, the company took an-

other leap forward, investing in two brand new AXYZ Infinite series machines equipped with multiple heads. This strategic move aimed to enhance production capacity, reduce machining time, and leverage the latest advancements in CNC technology.

The INFINITE router is a highly configurable CNC machine that is suitable for one-off, small batch production as well as high volume and high productivity applications, including woodworking, plastic fabrication, engineered plastic machining and so much more. For a wide range of routing operations, one can choose from high-speed spindles ranging from 5 HP to 15 HP. For knife cutting, choose from a tangential knife, which can be used for creasing and folding applications or an oscillating knife which can be used to process soft goods material.

AXYZ as the Preferred Supplier

AXYZ became SAM Cases's preferred machine supplier in 2009 and continues to hold that position. "The decision to choose AXYZ as the preferred machine supplier was not only a strategic one, but the choice was also influ-





enced by recommendations from other manufacturers in the industry", said Mathew Addy, technical director. SAM Cases serves diverse industries worldwide, producing high-quality packaging with no limitations. It is recognised for offering top-notch foam inserts, a testament to the quality of XYZ machines. XYZ machines at SAM Cases handle the production of custom foam inserts and cutting various plastics used in packaging manufacture. They recently created their first 3D foam pocket for a Rolls Royce project.

Impact on Productivity and Efficiency

The implementation of XYZ machines has significantly enhanced productivity and efficiency at SAM Cases. "The inclusion of an oscillating knife on one of the machines has resulted in a cleaner and faster cut with minimal mess, improving lead times for certain projects, enhancing overall operational efficiency", said Mathew Addy.

Bringing CNC manufacturing in-house has empowered SAM Cases to control and enhance the quality of its products, establishing it as a leader in the industry. Prior to the adoption of XYZ machines, the company relied on external manufacturers for foam inserts, limiting the ability to control product quality. Since the integration of XYZ technology, SAM Cases has achieved un-

paralleled control over the quality of the products, setting industry benchmarks.

Initial Challenges and Solutions

The initial challenges faced by SAM Cases during the integration of XYZ machines revolved around finding adequate space and addressing power and air requirements. XYZ responded with comprehensive documentation detailing space requirements and power ratings. The successful resolution of these challenges for the first machine paved the way for the seamless integration of the second machine, highlighting the collaborative partnership between XYZ and SAM Cases.

Cost Savings and Profitability

While cost savings primarily stem from avoiding markup on outsourced foam inserts, the overall streamlining of operations through XYZ machines has contributed to enhanced profitability. The CNC technology allows SAM Cases to have greater control over their production processes, resulting in a more cost-effective and efficient operation.

Workforce and Skill Requirements

Employees at SAM Cases welcomed the introduction of automation in their workflow. The presence of XYZ CNC machines has not only increased efficiency but also allowed employees to

focus on more intricate manual tasks, fostering job satisfaction and a positive work environment. While there is a learning curve for programming, SAM Cases has grown its workforce to meet the increased demand since the initial machine purchase. The user-friendly nature of the XYZ control system makes it accessible to all staff members. While there is a learning curve for programming to optimise cut quality and processing time, the ease of use has allowed SAM Cases to grow its workforce significantly to meet escalating demand since the initial machine purchase.

Maintenance and Smooth Operation

Ensuring the maintenance and smooth operation of XYZ machines is crucial for SAM Cases. Recognising the impact of downtime on their workshop schedule, the company emphasises the importance of XYZ service contracts, ensuring that the machines are consistently maintained at peak performance levels.

Future Plans for Automation: Expanding Horizons with XYZ

Looking ahead, SAM Cases envisions further integration of automation into its processes. Plans include the acquisition of another machine, housed in a separate facility, to process rigid plastics and wood. This strategic move aims to enhance yet another aspect of

SAM Cases's production capabilities, showcasing their commitment to continuous improvement and innovation.

In conclusion, SAM Cases's partnership with XYZ has been pivotal in elevating both precision and efficiency, establishing the company as a leader in the competitive world of flight case manufacturing. The commitment to quality and continuous improvement is evident in the successful integration of XYZ CNC routers into the operations. The symbiotic relationship between SAM Cases and XYZ has not only withstood the test of time but has propelled the company to new heights in packaging precision. The adoption of XYZ CNC routers has been a cornerstone in SAM Cases's journey of excellence, setting it apart as an industry leader and paving the way for future advancements in automation and efficiency. SAM Cases continues to be a leading force in the case manufacturing industry, renowned for its precision, durability, and commitment to excellence. The company's journey is a testament to its continuous pursuit of innovation and its ability to meet the evolving needs of clients across various industries.

SAM Cases

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XYZ

Tel: 01952 291600

www.axyz.com

Creak-free flooring from West Fraser

WEST FRASER'S CaberFloor P5 is a high-performance particleboard which is widely specified by developers, architects and self-builders due to its stability, durability and ease of installation.

The high-density panels come in thicknesses of 18 or 22 mm, in both square-edged or tongue and grooved profiles; the latter features profiles on all four sides to offer maximum flexibility.



The precision-engineered edges ensure smooth and speedy installation while the tight-fitting joints eliminate creaking.

Choosing T&G CaberFloor P5 removes the need for intermediate nog-gins, while 'secret' or hidden nailing or screws can be employed within the joints. Alternatively, CaberFix Joint&Joist adhesive can be applied to the edges, further countering the risk of squeaks and creaks that blight traditional floorboards and many ply or particleboard decks. CaberFix D4 is also ideal for bonding flooring boards to both joists and tongue and groove joints and for sealing the board edges.

Available in lengths of 2,400 mm and 600 mm wide, the floor panels, which are net carbon negative, are both FSC® (C012533) and CE-certified and are ideal for humid environments, in residential as well as new-build or retrofit applications.

Samples of all West Fraser construction panels, which are manufactured in Scotland, can be ordered on the website uk.westfraser.com. Head to the housebuilder page on the website to download a selection of tools including a fully-interactive guide to all West Fraser products and a checklist to make sure you have everything you need for your build.

West Fraser
01786 812 921
<https://uk.westfraser.com>

FITTINGS & COMPONENTS

New catalogue from IronmongeryDirect

LEADING SPECIALIST supplier IronmongeryDirect has launched its latest catalogue, featuring 230 new and exciting door hardware solutions from exclusive and trusted trade brands. According to the company, the catalogue is a 'must-have' for tradespeople on the move — ensuring they can get what they need, when they need it for a variety of projects.

Committed to saving customers money, IronmongeryDirect's own Altro and Touchpoint ranges now feature a selection of budget friendly tubular latches. There's also a selection of on-trend matt black door kits now available, with each kit containing a pair of handles, hinges and a tubular latch.

To elevate door renovation projects, the new Burlington range of lever handles by Frelan Hardware offers a high-quality designer look with a choice of finishes available. Alternatively, the Serozzetta collection by Carlisle Brass has been updated to include new modern and contemporary designs to enhance any interior.

For external door security, the newly featured Yale Conexis L2 is an electric multipoint lock available in a range of finishes. Completely wire-free and simple to fit, this smart door lock gives full control to the user and can be operated using a key fob, key card, phone tag or bluetooth app.

Also new to IronmongeryDirect is a comprehensive range of padlocks and other security products from world-renowned Squire Locks, including combination and open lock shackle padlocks, for all weather, marine grade, high security applications and more.

Kelly Wing, senior category & direct sourcing manager at IronmongeryDirect said: "We're delighted to launch our new catalogue which showcases the best of our extensive range, plus hundreds of new quality products. As part of our Trusted to Deliver promise, we're continually focussed on ensuring customers have access to a wide choice of solutions to suit all projects and budgets.

IronmongeryDirect
www.IronmongeryDirect.co.uk/free-catalogue



Whatever your LEV demands **Extractly** will tick all the boxes

When it comes to dust and fume extraction, Extractly delivers the complete package...

From the wide choice of filter types and technologies available, we source the most appropriate and cost-efficient system to meet your requirements and, from initial consultation and design, all the way through to installation and commissioning, we will be with you at every stage of the process.

The wealth of practical experience within the company, together with an extensive range of proven products, allows Extractly to offer extraction systems which are individually tailored to customers' specific needs.

Whether you need a small mobile extractor, or a high-capacity modular filter unit, an energy-efficient shredder or briquette press, or perhaps a modern spray booth or enclosure... from simply adapting ductwork to suit a new machine installation, to commissioning a complete waste-to-energy system, Extractly's experienced engineers deliver the optimum solution.



Dust & Fume Filtration



Shredding & Briquetting



Energy-Saving Technology



Control Panel Engineering



Service, Maintenance & LEV Testing



Spray Booths, Enclosures
and Curing Ovens



Extractly is the Master UK Distributor and Installer of the Ecogate® energy-saving system, and an Authorised Dealer and Installer of Nordfab Quick-Fit® ductwork



LEV... **extractly** as it should be



Extractly Limited
has achieved
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Extractly Ltd
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Ecogate® saver for Planova

DUST and fume extraction specialist, Extractly Ltd, has recently completed the installation of a new extraction system, incorporating Ecogate® energy-saving technology, at Planova UK's manufacturing facility in Leeds, West Yorkshire.

Founded in Denmark, in 1964, Planova has grown to be a world-leading provider of specialist shop fitting solutions and shelving systems; transforming retail spaces and reinforcing market branding for a host of blue-chip clients. Today the business is delivering turnkey project solutions to customers across four continents and, in 2020, Planova (UK) Ltd amalgamated with Leeds-based Bartuf Ltd; making it a part of the global Planova group.



A section of Planova's clean, modern joinery shop in Leeds, West Yorkshire.

Production capabilities at Planova's production centre in Leeds, formerly Bartuf's headquarters, have been enhanced over recent months with the company's investment in a fully-equipped timber processing department, and Ian Rayner, Extractly's national sales manager, was invited to submit proposals for appropriate dust extraction equipment to meet the expected demand. "With only a few machines requiring extraction, and a clear, modern factory space to work with, system design was by no means over-complicated," says Ian, "but, what was obvious to me straight away was the potential energy and cost-savings we could provide for Planova by incorporating Ecogate® 'on-demand' energy-saving extraction technology."

By their very nature, the diverse joinery commissions undertaken at Planova require bespoke machining, and this new dust extraction installation provides a perfect illustration of how Ecogate® technology can offer significant benefits to any woodworking operation; however large or small.

As Ian Rayner explained: "There were a couple of key factors we had to take into consideration with the installation at Planova: The company was naturally keen to get underway with production as soon as possible, but not all of the new woodworking machines could be delivered on the same lead-times, and delays with provision of a new 415 volt 3-phase connection from the electricity grid, which was required to power the new 30 kW main fan and associated electrical control gear, was also having a knock-on effect with a commissioning date for the new extraction system."

However, Extractly was able to offer Planova a temporary extraction solution: "Ian Rayner arranged for a multi-filter bagging unit to be made available to us, on loan for several months, until we had everything in place and ready for the new system to be installed", said Jonathan Richards, operational director at Planova. "Having the bagging unit in place allowed for machine utilisation, on a staggered basis, as the various pieces of equipment were installed and commissioned, and enabled us to commence production in the new



The 20,000 m³/hr capacity LBR-B SmartFilter with steel collection bins.



Planova's production manager, Mark Keenan, checks current energy usage.

workshop earlier than anticipated. Once we were in a position to give them the go-ahead, one of Extractly's teams of installation engineers, along with the Ecogate technicians, had the new, permanent system up and running within a week."

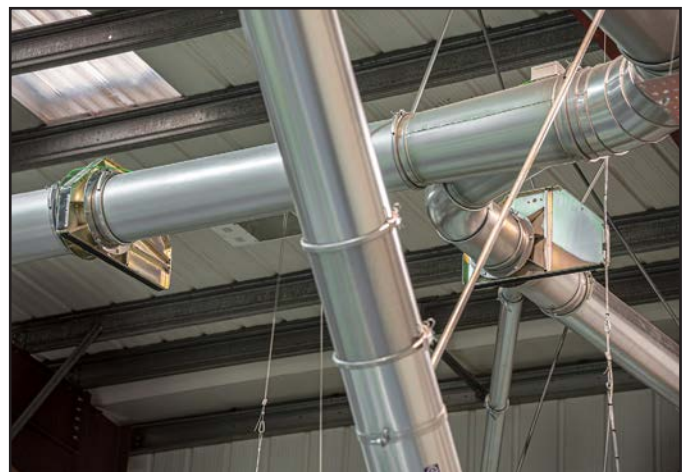
Planova's workshop currently includes a Holzher beam saw and edgebander, along with a couple of CNC machines, and a second edgebander is due to be installed soon. With all five machines in operation at the same time, a filter unit capable of extracting around 20,000 cubic metres of dust-laden air per hour was going to be required. Extractly supplied and installed an LBR-B 2HJ SmartFilter unit; an advanced, modular, reverse air baghouse, externally-sited on a compact footprint of just 2.4 m x 2.4 m which, if additional capacity is ever required, can be easily extended by simply adding further modules. Contaminated air enters the filter through an inlet where larger dust particles drop out of the airstream, and finer particles are captured by an array of highly efficient SUPERB-AG filters which allow cleaned air to pass through and vent to atmosphere. As the captured dust accumulates on the filter bags, two 1.1 kW regeneration fans blow air in the reverse direction to dislodge the dust; allowing it to drop into the lower hopper section from where it's collected in steel dust bins located below the hopper.

"As this is a completely new extraction system, Planova have no previous electricity bills to compare and calculate the savings achieved with Ecogate® installed, but energy usage is continuously monitored, and data gathered by the Ecogate® greenBOX® Nxt controller automatically calculates the ongoing savings being made when compared to energy consumption with the fan running at full power, all day, every day", added Ian Rayner. "In a traditional system, a 30 kW fan, running continually at full power would typically consume around 60,000 kW of electricity per year — with Ecogate® installed, we predict the effective payback period for Planova's investment will be less than three years."

Since Ecogate® technology controls the extraction, the main fan will run 'on-demand', in real-time, at the exact speed necessary to maintain optimum extraction; for Planova, this also means that no excess energy will be consumed prior to installation of the second edgebander ... but the system is ready to connect and deliver efficient extraction from day one.

In conclusion, Jonathan Richards had nothing but praise for the part Extractly played in getting the new department set up: "We couldn't have got the joinery shop up and running as quickly as we did without the temporary extraction they provided and now, with everything working efficiently, I can definitely say that Ecogate® does exactly what it says on the tin!"

Extractly Limited
Tel: 01924 520462
Email: info@extractly.co.uk
www.extractly.co.uk



Ecogate® motorised dampers open and close automatically as machines come on and off line.



30 kW main fan draws dust-laden air from the high-speed machinery, through the Nordfab QF ductwork system, via the non-return explosion isolation valve, and into the filter unit.

Another business saving money on energy bills with a wood waste heater from Wood Waste Technology

A BESPOKE-FURNITURE cabinet making company has purchased a wood waste heater from Wood Waste Technology to save money on its operating costs.

Derek Barrett Design manufactures high-quality, individually designed hand-crafted furniture for homes, offices and commercial interiors. The company decided to purchase a wood waste heater to utilise the waste timber it generates daily, as well as to reduce business expenditure on heating and waste disposal.

Director, Derek Barrett explains: "As the business has grown, we expanded into a neighbouring business unit.

"For the last three to four cold winters, we've been trying to heat the space with diesel heaters, but they were becoming more and more expensive to run.

"We'd seen wood waste heaters in use at other companies like ours, so decided to see how they might save our business money and make us more efficient."

Derek researched the marketplace to try to find the best wood waste heater for the company's needs.

Having read favourable reviews about UK manufacturer Wood Waste Technology, the company requested more information.

Following a site survey and quote, a WT5 was installed at the company's manufacturing office in Ford, Buckinghamshire by Wood Waste Technology's experienced engineers.

Derek says: "We're delighted with our wood waste heater and would 100% recommend the heater, and Wood Waste Technology as a supplier.

"In terms of investment, it's a no-brainer. You spend money up front, but it pays back quickly. For example, we're saving around £600 each month now that we don't need the two skips we used to have to hire.

"We also opted to have the heat dump fitted, so we can con-

tinue to burn our waste throughout the summer and send the heat to atmosphere."

Managing director of Wood Waste Technology, Kurt Cockroft says: "The recent energy crisis has resulted in a lot of manufacturing companies reviewing their operating costs, and a wood waste heater is a great way to save money on the bottom line."

Wood Waste Technology's

years of expertise in wood waste solutions have helped many companies reduce their waste disposal and heating costs.

As well as offering site survey, design, manufacture, installation and on-going maintenance for new units, the company also services all types of wood waste heaters and supplies genuine spares.

In addition, Wood Waste

Technology is the UK official distributor for Gross Apparatebau GmbH, a German manufacturer of dependable, precision engineered shredders and briquetters, available in various size and specifications to suit all business applications.

Wood Waste Technology

Tel 01785 250400

www.woodwastetechnology.co.uk

www.grossuk.co.uk



Green LOOP pallets to be RFID tagged in smart approach to moving materials

IN WHAT is believed to be an industry first for UK construction, The Pallet LOOP has announced that each reusable green pallet it produces and puts into the sector will be fitted with a radio frequency identification (RFID) tag — a move that is set to generate huge amounts of data about the movement of pallets and associated building materials nationwide as they pass through the supply chain.

Equipping each of its pallets with an RFID tag, containing a small chip, will give The Pallet LOOP the ability to scan pallets in and out of its production and collection sites nationwide. For The Pallet LOOP, this investment will give the business accurate, up to date information about the number of pallets issued to customers and, more importantly, collection and recovery rates. Crucially, for users of The Pallet LOOP, the information will also prove invaluable — revealing fascinating insights about the financial and carbon savings they are achieving. Long-term, all building products users through the construction supply chain could access information about pallet and associated product dwell times, setting them on a course to achieving greater efficiencies.

As part of its offer, The Pallet LOOP provides all its customers with access to a special reporting platform, where they can view and download information about the number of pallets returned and the money saved on collections versus disposal via a skip. The system also provides information about the amount of carbon saved and trees repurposed, which can be used in sustainability reporting. This data can be automatically e-mailed to customers or can be generated manually — depending on requirements.

The Pallet LOOP's RFID technology is being supplied by MiTEQ — a specialist business providing fully integrated automation and tracking solutions using RFID



technology. The Pallet LOOP has ordered more than a million tags for the circular economy pallets it is producing, which are due to hit the building materials supply chain in the coming months.

Commenting, Steve Ottaway, chief operating officer at The Pallet LOOP said: "When we launched The Pallet LOOP, our main objective was to solve the problem of pallet waste by providing a range of pallets that are stronger, standardised in their design, and suitable for reuse. However, we also knew there was an opportunity to make our pallets smarter. In supply chain management and logistics, data has always been king. That's now also the case for sustainability — with companies needing facts and figures to incorporate into their ESG work and annual reports. LOOP customers already using our PowerBI reporting platform love the detail it provides about the single use pallets we are collecting from their sites. This information will be further enriched when our green pallets, tagged with MiTEQ's RFID technology, hit the market."

Alex Whiting, managing director for MiTEQ, said "The Pallet LOOP's investment in RFID is a testament to the power of the tech-

nology, not only for managing millions of assets within the business but to supporting a longer-term sustainability goal to reduce wastage and create a stronger circular economy that delivers value for customers. MiTEQ's unique innovation process enabled us to really explore and understand The Pallet LOOP team's requirements, collaboratively develop a solution and test it. We are now excited to deploy it into the market."

Once fitted to the pallets, MiTEQ RFID labels — which are robust, waterproof and abrasion resistant — can be read either by a hand-held or a static scanner employed at The Pallet LOOP's manufacturing and repatriation sites. Tags utilise unique ID numbers for the pallet, which allow for the tracking of customer shipments, pallet returns and to identify where the pallet was made and originally delivered. The system can scan and read multiple tags simultaneously, from a distance of at least three metres, enabling The Pallet LOOP to quickly scan pallets in and out, on vehicles, or in stacks on site.

MiTEQ, one of Britain's fastest growing companies, are specialists in asset location and management tracking with over 30

years of experience enabling businesses to efficiently manage and track their assets and inventory through the power of radio frequency identification (RFID) technology by providing customer-centric technology expertise and operational guidance. MiTEQ's innovation process, believed to be unique, results in creating bespoke solutions that significantly improve operational efficiency and reduce losses. Along with significant experience in transport & logistics, MiTEQ works across a range of industries from tracking retail stock and inventory to supporting field service operations for the some of the largest energy & utilities companies. MiTEQ supports the end to end design, development and implementation of bespoke asset management and tracking solutions. To find out more, visit www.miteq.co.uk or get in touch using MiTEQ's contact form.

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Nine Zero's sustainability commitment

THE UK Government recognised timber's place in the route to sustainable projects by setting out its groundbreaking Timber in Construction Roadmap in December. With full support of the initiative, aimed at aiding supply, Nine Zero Timber Windows and Doors has gone one step further in setting out its commitment to reducing carbon emissions, by detailing to customers the eco-centric decisions and practices it has in place.

Nine Zero manufactures and supplies FSC-certified timber windows and doors with a six to eight week lead time to meet every project demand. Three day-to-day processes demonstrate Nine Zero's overarching sustainability goals: recycling timber waste, providing renewable energy to local homes, and selecting an eco-responsible energy supplier.

Nine Zero products are made in the UK, and an intrinsic part of the manufacturing process is ensuring all waste produced is appropriately reused. Partnering with farms local to its Cornwall workshop, Nine Zero supplies timber waste for animal bedding and composting, reducing landfill contributions and supporting the agricultural community.

Since its launch in 2017, Nine Zero has taken strides towards sustainability. By converting the energy generated from recyclable materials into renewable energy, the company supplies power to local homes, reducing the UK's reliance on fossil fuels. Nine Zero has also chosen to partner with green energy supplier, Positive Energy, strengthening the business's ownership and accountability in taking action against climate change.

"It's reassuring to see the government setting out a clear roadmap to increase timber supply, which is so needed to reach our sustainability goals, both in construction and globally," says Steve Winscott, company director at Nine Zero.

"We have always taken a proactive approach to reducing our carbon footprint at Nine Zero, and I think it's important that manufacturers look at their own processes to see how they can drive this down. It may feel like a 'small act' here and there, but these small acts, when multiplied by millions, will lead to significant change."

Nine Zero Timber Windows and Doors

<https://www.nine-zero.co.uk/>



Reusing pallets enhances sustainability

THE CHAIRMAN of the National Association of Pallet Distributors (NAPD) has called for supply chain businesses to ensure they have a 'reuse first' policy in place for pallets.

As new legislation will be introduced in the UK and EU in 2024, environmental reporting will be mandatory for large businesses and is expected for SMEs by 2026. NAPD Chairman Paul Tait said the many companies that supply products such as food, drink, and pharmaceuticals can make the transition more straightforward by reusing their pallets, which will cut the carbon impact of their supply chains.

"Reuse is a central part of a circular economy and enables businesses to make sizeable savings in their emissions and move closer towards their increasing sustainability obligations," said Mr Tait. "Wooden pallets are a naturally sustainable product and companies that reuse them in their supply chains extend the environmental benefits further."

Used pallets are exempt from packaging waste regulations, so businesses using them also cut down administration and cost.

Saleh Hijazi, press officer for NAPD, said: "With regulations including the Sustainability Disclosure Standards (SDS) and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in the UK, and CSRD in Europe, coming into force in the months ahead, it's imperative that everyone involved in goods supply chains works together to mitigate environmental impact and make businesses greener."

"Sustainability-focused strategies for supply chains are no longer a 'nice-to-have'; they are essential to meeting legislative obligations and the demands of our customers."

NAPD is the UK association for companies that repair pallets for reuse to a high standard. Its members are bound by a code of conduct and provide additional supply chain services to customers.

National Association of Pallet Distributors

www.napd.co.uk

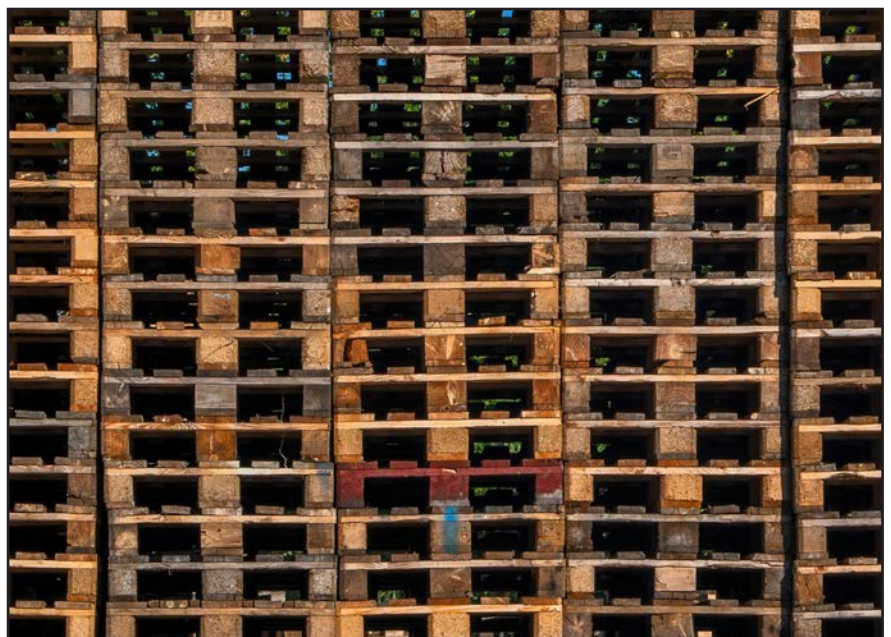


Photo courtesy of Lucas van Oort, NAPD.

West Fraser celebrates community wellbeing with £13,000 donation to local groups



THE TEAM at West Fraser's plant in Cowie, Scotland has donated a total of £13,000 to four local community groups which provide vital care and wellbeing support.

Staff at the site handed out this beneficial funding to the groups and charities, which included Strathcarron Hospice and Maggie's Cancer Centre, Forth Valley Sick Kids Hospital and the Start Up Stirling foodbank.

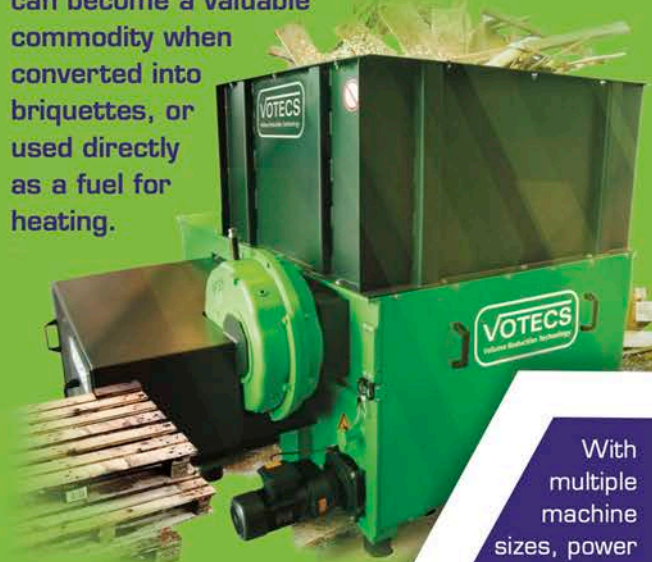
David Connacher, marketing manager at West Fraser Europe, said: "As a major employer to the local area, West Fraser recognises the importance of supporting the local community and the businesses making a huge positive difference within them, in line with our own dedicated commitment to safety and staff wellbeing at West Fraser.

"Not only do we look out for each other on site but staff also wanted to extend this culture to the surrounding local area by supporting these fantastic charities within the community. We are thankful and proud to support these charities in the vital role they play in helping others."

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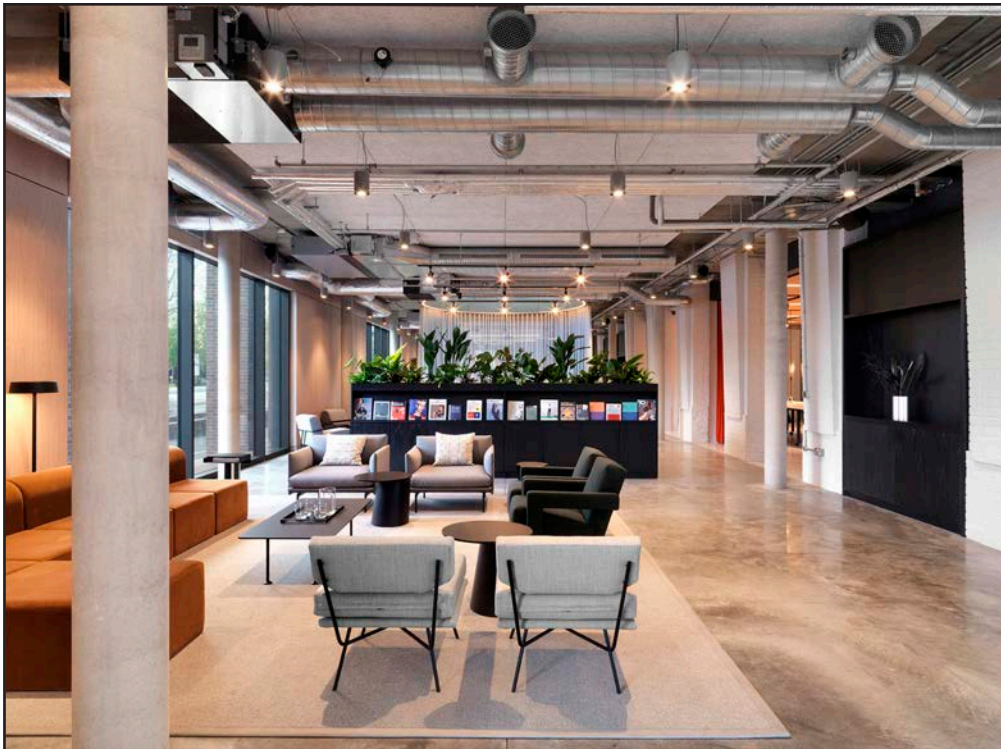
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Making acoustics work at the office



TINTAGEL HOUSE, located on the Albert Embankment in Vauxhall has had a dramatic makeover thanks to the interior design by Universal Design Studio and architects Stanton Williams. A former Police station for over 50 years and home to the flying squad, the 12-storey block with its austere façade now comprises 8,800 sq m of

flexible shared offices, together with a members' bar, cafe, gym, workshop and events space. The block is now a thriving hub for entrepreneurs and independent businesses run by The Office Group.

As part of the transformation, the design brief was to generate opportunities for people to meet and connect. By overlaying ref-

erences from hospitality, culture, commerce and workspace all under one roof, Universal Design Studio has created rich and varied spaces that push the boundaries of what a workspace can and should be.

To help reduce waste, many of the original finishes from the existing building were reused, including timber, concrete and

parquet flooring, as well as concrete and terrazzo finishes to the walls. With many hard surfaces, Trolldtekt wood wool acoustic panels were specified throughout the ground floor lounge and multi-use spaces to solve the problems of acoustics and reverberating sound.

Trolldtekt acoustic panels are available in a variety of different structures and colours, combining superior sound absorption with an award-winning design. The Trolldtekt range has a minimum expected life cycle of 50 years coupled with excellent resistance to humidity and tested to meet ball impact standards.

The range is available in various sizes and structures, from extreme fine to fine. They can be supplied as natural wood or finished in almost any RAL or NCS colour.

Depending on the panel specified, reaction to fire is classed in accordance with EN 13501 as B-s1,d0 or A2-s1,d0 respectively. Cradle to Cradle Certified® at Gold level, Trolldtekt wood wool acoustic panels are manufactured using wood from certified forests (PEFC™ and FSC®C115450) and can contribute positively to a building's BREEAM, WELL or LEED points.

Photos: Charles Hosea
Trolldtekt
www.trolldtekt.co.uk





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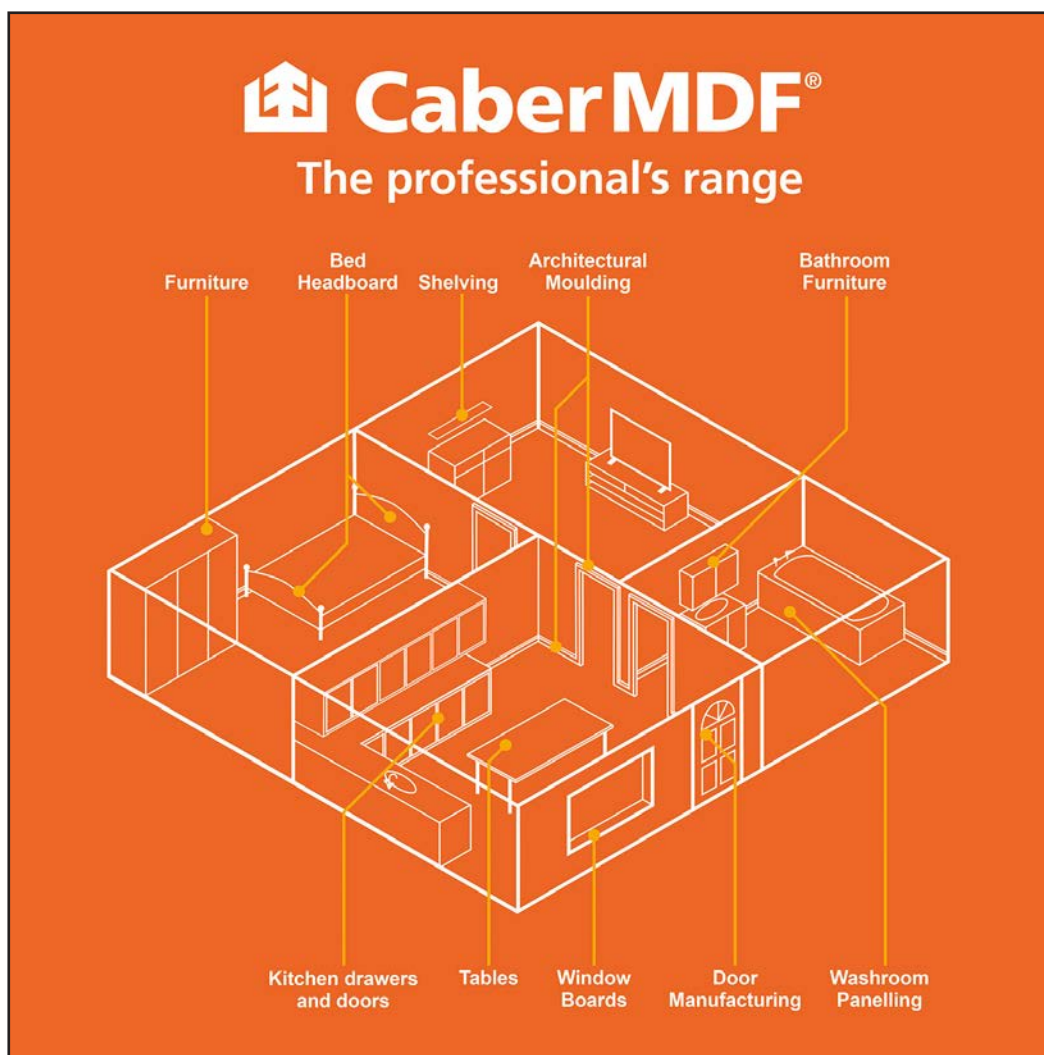
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lathamtimber.co.uk/egger-24 or email **info@lathams.co.uk**

SHOWCASING:

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West Fraser's CaberMDF is perfect all around the house



THE ORIGINAL CaberMDF was developed in the 1960's. Still as popular today and manufactured by West Fraser UK in Scotland, the highly engineered product can be seen all over the modern building, from furniture to architectural mouldings, and from radiator cabinets to kitchens. When it comes to consistency, quality and ease of use, West Fraser's CaberMDF leads the way with legendary performance and popularity.

The board is designed as an economical and versatile alternative to hardwood — without the inherent defects of knots or grains. The product's attributes include stability and consistent density, while the panels have a high-quality surface, are strong, resist impact and accept fasteners securely. The panels are easy to work with and have good machining properties. They can be sawn, drilled, shaped and routed cleanly with minimum fuss, using hand or machine tools. When it comes to appearance, quality finishes are easily achieved by both professionals and DIY-ers, and the smooth surface of the panels is ideal for painting or applying veneers or paper foils.

The panels can be used to form architectural features, fascias, skirting, shelves, fitted units, wardrobes and kitchen and bathroom furniture including door and drawer fronts as well as carcassing. They can also be used to create individual items of furniture.

West Fraser's comprehensive five-strong CaberMDF range has been developed to offer the perfect matches between panel and application. For general use, CaberMDF Trade is a versatile, lightweight board which

is ideal where weight is a factor; the panels hold screws and fastenings securely. CaberMDF Trade MR offers the same benefits with the added advantage of moisture resistance for wet or humid environments. Where there is a need for premium quality and detailed working, CaberMDF Pro provides incredibly consistent density, ensuring cutting and routing need minimal finishing. CaberMDF Pro MR offers the further benefit of moisture resistance. The ultimate product in the range is CaberMDF Industrial which is moisture resistant and designed specifically for the production of high-grade furniture and fittings. It is ideal for deep routing and its consistent close-grained texture ensures clean edges and surfaces that will take advanced finishing techniques.

Beyond the advantages and practicalities of using CaberMDF, the materials and processes used to manufacture the product offer the reassurance of being sustainable. West Fraser's range of board products is available in a wide selection of sizes to minimise waste. All timber used is responsibly sourced and FSC-certified. The panels are manufactured in the UK from locally grown timber and are net carbon negative.

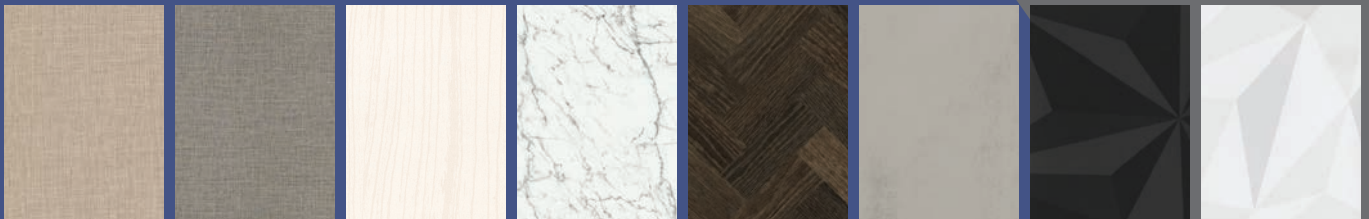
Samples of all West Fraser construction panels can be ordered on the website uk.westfraser.com. Head to the housebuilder page on the website to download a selection of tools including a fully-interactive guide to all West Fraser products and a checklist to make sure you have everything you need for your build.

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SterlingOSB Zero PrimedPlus selected for cathedral contract

A SUFFOLK-based scaffolding and flat roofing specialist has chosen SterlingOSB Zero Primed-Plus from West Fraser for the hoardings around repair works at the St Edmundsbury Cathedral site in Bury St Edmunds.

Pro-Flat Specialist Services serves clients across much of East Anglia in the domestic, commercial and specialised historic buildings sectors. In this instance, English Heritage contacted the team when stone masons were required to carry out repairs to the centuries-old limestone walls. Given the highly visible location where worshippers and the wider public pass in large numbers, the cathedral authorities wanted the scaffolding and the work itself to be smartly screened off.

Pro-Flat contacted Falcon Timber in High Wycombe, its regular supplier of board materials, to discover that the merchant had West Fraser's new SterlingOSB Zero

PrimedPlus product available, which is fully prepared to avoid the need for painting on site.

A full pack of 50 boards was delivered to the site, for Pro-Flat's experienced operatives to proceed with screw-fixing them to a supporting framework of timbers, braced off the scaffold.

The director in charge of the work for Pro-Flat Specialist Services commented: "As well as installing three-layer felt and hot bonded roofing systems, a lot of our work is focused on historic buildings across Suffolk, North Essex, South Norfolk and East Cambridgeshire, where there are many ecclesiastical and other properties in the care of English Heritage.

"When we were asked to erect a hoarding around the works at St Edmundsbury Cathedral, we spoke to one of Falcon Timber's advisers who recommended the new SterlingOSB Zero PrimedPlus

which definitely saved us time as it is easy to work with and was delivered to us pre-primed and therefore cut down labour on site."

As a sturdy board which is ideal for the construction of screening and walkways, either for privacy or to fulfil health & safety requirements, SterlingOSB Zero Primed-Plus is well able to withstand the inclement British weather too.

As with all West Fraser's SterlingOSB Zero products, no extra formaldehyde is used during the manufacturing process, so it is safe to specify in hospitals, schools and other public realms. Furthermore, its ultra-smooth surface means the boards can be adorned with graphics so can be used to offer directional information as well as branding, promotional material and artwork.

Primed in the factory, in either a neutral white or grey paint, the edges of the OSB3 boards are

treated with a sealant on all edges to protect against water ingress while the UV-resistant putty layer applied offers even further weather protection as well as enhancing the ultra-smooth finish.

Being knot and void free due to the rigorous manufacturing process means the boards will cut cleanly while being easy to fix and durable.

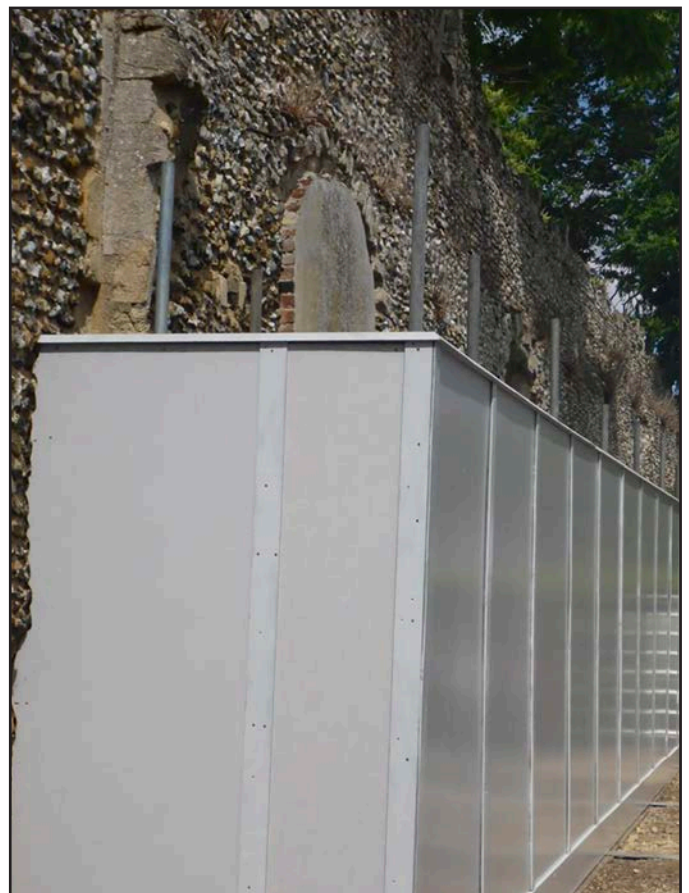
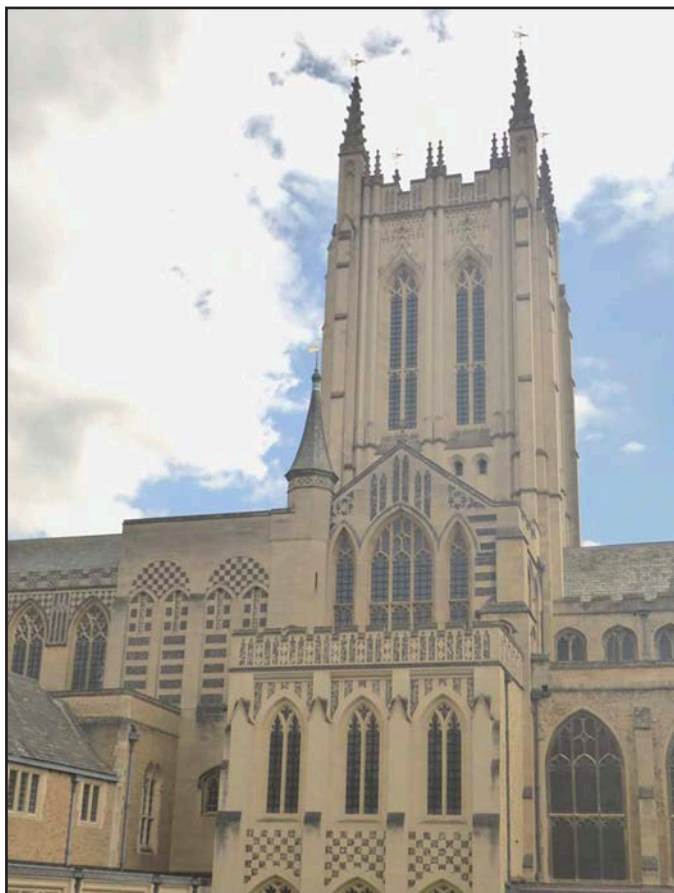
The boards are supplied in packs of 50 to cover a total area of approximately 150 m², with each measuring 1,220 mm wide by 2,440 mm long and at 18 mm thickness.

SterlingOSB Zero PrimedPlus is CE-marked and complies with the Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC® (C012533)) and BBA Agreement requirements while being manufactured in the UK enhances security of supply and sustainability.

West Fraser

01786 812921

<https://uk.westfraser.com/>



Pictured (left) is St Edmundsbury Cathedral and (right) limestone walls screened by SterlingOSB Zero PrimedPlus.

Sustainable timber and locally sourced Dorset stone complete contemporary extension on the Isle of Purbeck

LOCATED in the English countryside, close to Dorset's Jurassic Coast and Corfe Castle, a beautiful modern extension has recently transformed a mid-Victorian semi-detached home, while at the same time retaining the property's quaint style and heritage. Featuring local Purbeck stone and sustainably sourced Kebony timber, owner and developer, Lewis Donoghue of Lewel Construction, has more than delivered in marrying old with new.

Designed in collaboration with Gruff Architects, the vision behind the new project in Furzebrook was to create a modern extension that would enlarge the house for the owners and their growing family, at the same time connecting the building more intimately with its natural surroundings. The new extension to the side and rear has expansive glazing to take

advantage of the spectacular views overlooking the glorious Dorset landscape of green hills and leafy hedgerows, opening the house to light and sunshine, and allowing the owners to interact with the plethora of local flora and fauna that form the backdrop of the property. Internally, the ground floor living spaces have been enlarged with two additional bedrooms created upstairs, capturing the views of the treetops and hills beyond.

The original Victorian house is constructed from clay bricks quarried directly from the land to the rear of the house. However, the double storey side extension has been designed as a younger, contemporary version of the footprint of the original house, with its ridgeline sitting at a lower level, enveloped in 1,500 m of wire brushed Kebony Cladding by Shou Sugi Ban.



Developed in Norway, the patent protected Kebony technology sees sustainable softwoods, such as pine, transformed into dually modified™ products with comparable aesthetic and mechanical characteristics to tropical hardwoods. In addition to the increased dimensional stability, durability, and hardness of the wood, the use of Kebony Shou Sugi Ban diverts the need for deforestation of the planet's vital rainforest sinks, helping to reduce CO₂ emissions and the carbon footprint of the Furzebrook home. Kebony wood also has a significantly increased resistance to the elements, allowing it to maintain its structural integrity and distinctive appearance for many years to come, making it the ideal material for the exterior of the new extension.

The remaining materials have been sourced from the surrounding area, with varying different colours and textures of Purbeck stone from local quarries creating a traditional and yet visually engaging façade. The combination of this local stone with the black coated Kebony timber, used to clad the entirety of the first-floor exterior, as well as the roof of the main extension, and the walls and roof of the garage, gives the building an enhanced grain finish that sits comfortably in the local landscape, while complementing and enhancing the original Victorian cottage at the heart of the property.

Owner of the property, Lewis Donoghue, and director at Lewel Construction commented on the decision to use Kebony: "We wanted to build something that was unique while still using traditional materials that didn't look out of place, and we loved the way that Kebony looked and felt. As we clad the roof of the house it was really important the timber could last and remain stable also to maintain the sharp detailing — I'm truly delighted with the outcome".

Nina Landbø, International Sales Manager for Kebony, comments: "It is amazing to see the extensive application of Kebony Shou Sugi Ban for this remarkable extension. The project is an outstanding demonstration of the integration of modern and traditional architecture, with the versatile appearance of Kebony harmonising the new extension with the existing building, and its enhanced durability guaranteeing high performance cladding for years to come."

Photography: French + Tye
Kebony ● www.kebony.com

SterlingOSB sheaths off-site solution for new Orkney care home

WITH accessibility to the site of the new Kirkwall Care Facility on Orkney being almost as challenging as the weather the island's inhabitants endure, a rapid assembly panelised timber frame presented itself as an ideal build solution for the project, with the main contractor's own joinery workshops utilising West Fraser's SterlingOSB Zero as the sheathing to the roof, walls and floors.

R. Clouston Ltd was established by Bob Clouston 34 years ago and has been involved in constructing many of the island's major buildings, as well as being one of its biggest employers. In fact, the highly skilled craftsmen in its Kirkwall workshops are normally kept busy producing fitted furniture and other joinery items, as well as fabricating timber frame panels for customers and its own projects.

The 40-bed facility, which will replace the ageing St Rognvald's House, is on a sloping green field site on the outskirts of Kirkwall, with the topography having required thousands of tonnes of hardcore to be brought in and compacted over an eight-week period, prior to the casting of a heavily reinforced concrete raft foundation. The project team then hired a crane to install the panels, which were brought to site in a carefully scheduled sequence to avoid unnecessary site storage.

The contracts manager for R. Clouston, Andy Smith, comments: "We currently employ some 50 people on the books as well as having a lot of regular sub-contractors working for the company, with our workshops producing most of the windows and doors we fit, along with staircases and other commissions. The machinists and joiners produced all the roof and floor cassettes as well as the wall panels for the care home; with 9 mm SterlingOSB Zero on the top and underside of factory insulated, warm roof cassettes, while the floor cassettes have an upper layer of 18 mm SterlingOSB Zero. The material in multiple thicknesses was supplied to us by Jewson Builders Merchant."

Each of the roof trusses comprises four of the 4.8 x 2.4 m cassettes, which then form a monopitch structure with a 25-degree slope, supported by the exterior walls and intermediate steel stanchions. Then to withstand the high wind speeds common in Orkney, the build-up is being completed with the installation of zinc standing seam profiles.

Andy Smith concludes: "The home is being built to very high energy standards, with the Sterling board contributing to an airtightness design figure of 5, though we are expecting the tests to give us a score nearer to 2. We've used the SterlingOSB product for many years, with the quality and durability of the boards being a main factor, while from the sustainability point of view we try and buy locally wherever we can, so the Inverness factory is the nearest of the big manufacturers to us."

SterlingOSB Zero is available in a range of sizes and thicknesses up to 22 mm as well as a T&G version ideal for flooring and decking applications. The high performance panel product, free of added formaldehyde, has also earned BBA approval and meets other industry technical standards.

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Galerie from Polyrey: a collection of interior panels

POLYREY, a leading global supplier of technical and decorative surfaces, has opened up a wide array of interior design possibilities to architects and building specifiers by launching Galerie — believed to be the largest single collection of interior panels for commercial applications.

Galerie gives specifiers the opportunity to choose from a collection of over 800 designs comprising a multitude of decors and finishes inspired by the most prominent design and societal trends driving the interiors market. With 90 new decors and a new Silk finish which brings Galerie's total number of finish options to 18, Polyrey has fused premium technical performance with aesthetic impact.

Polyrey, which is part of global engineered surfaces manufacturer, Wilsonart, has taken inspiration from the functionality and ambience sought by users of commercial spaces in creating its Galerie collection. The range also taps into current design trends such as nature, sustainability, originality and nostalgia; each of which can be seen in the range of colours and textured finishes on offer.

Created to make surface selection as quick and as simple as possible for any project, Galerie boasts two complementary ranges: Integral and Plus. Within the Integral collection, every design is available in high pressure laminate (HPL), melamine faced composite (MFC) and compact laminate. The Galerie Plus collection presents specifiers with an additional set of premium designs available in HPL and compact laminate.

Lines of communication between architects, designers and fabricators are enhanced through the release of the Polyrey infoGuide: a single source of product information and availability for Galerie as well as complementary surfaces for cubicles and washrooms.

With décor categories of solid colours inspired by current interiors trends, woods capable of mimicking the look and feel of the natural environment, and even a leather look, specifiers can take inspiration from a plethora of different sources to make their vision a reality.

New décors introduced by Polyrey for the first time include the elegant and calming Bleu Poudré, the earthy warmth of Beige Nude, the harmonic woodgrain of Orme Elegant and the striking dark marble, Marbre Alcino; enabling specifiers to embrace contemporary trends on their projects. The breadth of colours and decors available across the Galerie collection is matched by the choice of finishes on offer. Its HPL designs are available with as many as 18 different finishes, including the soft matte Touch and Silk options.

Touch offers three anti-fingerprint finishes, available in a choice of 18 décors where premium marbles and stones complement a variety of on-trend plain colours. Galerie's Silk range, meanwhile, offers an accessible alternative which blends a matte finish with a silky feel and low reflectiveness. Completing the portfolio are Galerie's Monochrom collection and its Signature library, which offers a collection of unique and striking patterns for a more daring approach to design.

Polyrey has underpinned its flagship range with an expanded commitment to environmental responsibility and its transparency. Last year saw Polyrey granted a Silver sustainability award by EcoVadis, the world's most trusted business sustainability ratings.

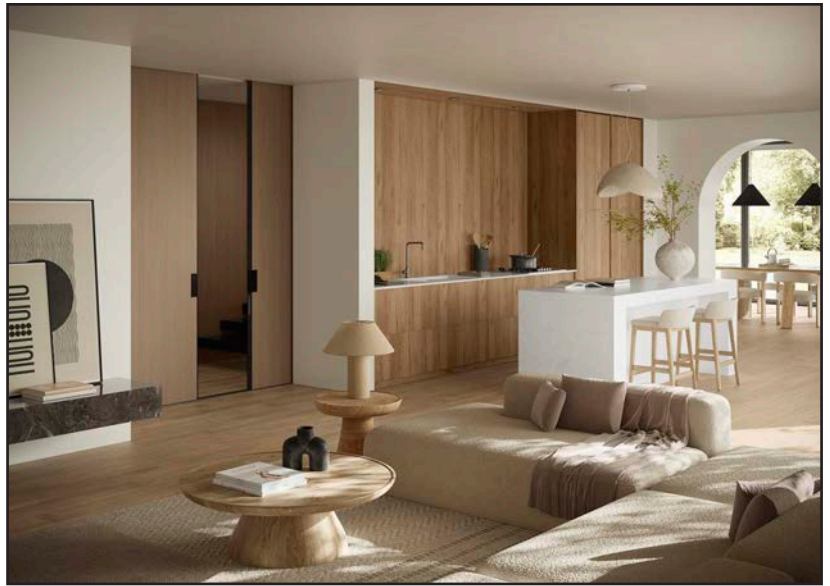
Polyrey's commitment to sustainability sees an unrivalled 20% of the brand's HPL composed of recycled paper. Its MFC boasts similarly impressive environmental credentials with renewable materials making up 85% of the overall product composition.

George Emms, specification sales manager at Polyrey UK said: "The launch of our Galerie collection is the most significant product innovation we have brought to market in over five years and gives architects, specifiers and designers access to the largest single collection of interior surfaces to meet the requirements of any commercial project.

"As the name of our new collection suggests, we've centred our investment around presenting specifiers with the kind of aesthetic possibilities they are unlikely to find anywhere else. By combining this extensive choice with a simple approach to surface selection, we're aiming to make the specification process smooth and efficient, with an end result that is visual stunning."

Polyrey's comprehensive product offering is supported by an expert team of professionals, geared towards aiding architects and specifiers at every stage of the design and specification process. Each of its products has a unique Environmental Passport that assesses its life cycle impact from production to end of life, while an Environmental Building Sheet supports specifiers with BREEAM and LEED certification.

Polyrey ● www.wilsonart.co.uk/polyrey



Upgrade furniture projects with MEDITE PREMIER

MEDIUM DENSITY fibreboard (MDF) is an exceptionally versatile product. It can be used to make furniture, cabinetry, panelling and can even be laminated for decorative purposes in flooring. MDF offers furniture makers and carpenters a host of benefits, which include: a smooth finish, excellent machinability, strength and consistency. Wood fibres are used to make the panels which are pressed with resin to make a homogeneous panel — making it easier to machine — and therefore allowing greater flexibility and creativity.

As part of the range 3 mm-6 mm MDF is mainly used in basic furniture applications such as backings for wardrobes, chest of drawers and shelving.



MDF is also now also a popular choice for wall panelling, usually seen in living rooms, hallways and bedrooms, thanks to its smooth and even surface making it easier to apply paint on to it.

Furniture makers looking for high quality MDF will find that MEDITE PREMIER from MEDITE SMARTPLY is an excellent choice.

MEDITE PREMIER is a multi-purpose MDF, produced using superior wood refining technology and specially designed resins. Its smooth surface and excellent machining properties makes it suitable for the thinnest laminates and surface coatings.

End users can enjoy consistency of quality and thickness, as well as reduced tool wear. This ensures that the most sophisticated finishing and processing techniques can be completed — offering great design freedom.

MEDITE PREMIER is available in a range of sizes and thicknesses including 3 mm-6 mm which is a perfect thickness for use in furniture applications.

“MEDITE PREMIER is an excellent product for furniture projects, from creating backings for television units and wardrobes, to making higher end bespoke furnishings,” says Rebecca Goldsmith, product manager at MEDITE SMARTPLY. “It’s also a popular choice for wall panelling because its consistent, smooth surface makes it easy to apply paint and even apply the thinnest of laminates so a high quality finish can be easily achieved.

“We’ve also seen examples of the product being used to make small cupboards and drawers in caravans, and even a project where the user made photo frames from the panel. It’s a truly versatile product.”

MEDITE PREMIER

<https://mdfosb.com/en/products/medite-premier>

SterlingOSB Zero — the builders' choice

THE EYES of the specifier and builder have to be wide open for the best products for a project; cutting corners and selecting poor replacements does not work in the long run. Performance, safety and the environment remain some of the toughest, and most important, considerations.

Choosing panel products that satisfy building standards, have sound environmental credentials and are quick and easy to use when battling the elements in the UK, is one tough task too; and West Fraser's SterlingOSB Zero range makes the job a whole lot easier.

The portfolio comprises of SterlingOSB Zero OSB3 and SterlingOSB Zero Tongue and Groove; both are variants of the precision-engineered OSB3 board; BBA-approved, the board contains zero added formalde-

hyde and is produced in Scotland from forest thinnings taken from sustainably-managed forests. It is also certified according to the guidelines of the FSC® (C012533) and is CE-certified.

Among its multiple uses, SterlingOSB Zero is ideal for timber frame construction. The boards are designed to speed up the build process and are available in a wide range of thicknesses and sheet sizes. For structural use in dry or humid load bearing situations, SterlingOSB Zero OSB3 is the board of choice.

Flooring and roofing applications are served by SterlingOSB Zero OSB3 and SterlingOSB Zero Tongue & Groove. Panels are easy to saw, drill, nail or plane. SterlingOSB Zero's smooth surface gives improved adhesion qualities for all flat roofing applications with no sanding required, even for GRP finishes.

West Fraser delivers a net carbon benefit in all its products produced in the UK, locking up more CO₂e in the products (and lifetime of use) than is emitted in the manufacture of them. That accounts for everything from forest to customer, including harvesting, production, sales and logistics.

Samples of all West Fraser construction panels, which are manufactured in Scotland, can be ordered on the website Uk.westfraser.com. Head to the housebuilder page on the website to download a selection of tools including a fully-interactive guide to all West Fraser products and a checklist to make sure you have everything you need for your build.

West Fraser

Tel 01786 812 921

<https://uk.westfraser.com>



Panelco expands laminate portfolio through new strategic partnership with Polyrey

DECORATIVE panel and sheet experts Panelco has announced a strategic brand partnership with specialist technical and decorative panel designer and manufacturer Polyrey to expand the range of high-pressure laminate (HPL) and compact laminate products it can offer its customers.

As a prominent stockist and manufacturer of innovative products, ranges and decorative designs, Panelco has grown over its two-decade history to become a byword for quality in the sector.

This new partnership sees the company work together with Polyrey, part of Wilsonart Engineered Surfaces, a global leader in engineered decorative surfaces.

Beginning in April, the two businesses will cooperate to offer an extensive collection of Polyrey products to Panelco's customer base of design and architectural professionals. The collection will include Polyrey's newly-launched Galerie range.

Galerie gives fabricators, manufacturers and specifiers the opportunity to choose from a collection of over 800 designs comprising a multitude of decors and finishes inspired by the most prominent design and societal trends driving the interiors



market. With 90 new designs and a new Silk finish which brings Galerie's total number of finish options to 18, Polyrey has fused premium technical performance with aesthetic impact.

The new partnership will see Panelco offer Polyrey's Galerie Integral and Plus ranges, alongside the brand's other specialist collec-

tions including Cubicle & Wash-room, Durion and Doors.

With over 60 years of manufacturing heritage, Polyrey is at the forefront of technical and decorative surfaces. Galerie Integral decors are available in high pressure laminate (HPL), melamine faced chipboard (MFC) and compact laminate.

The Galerie Plus collection presents specifiers with an additional set of premium designs available in HPL and compact laminate.

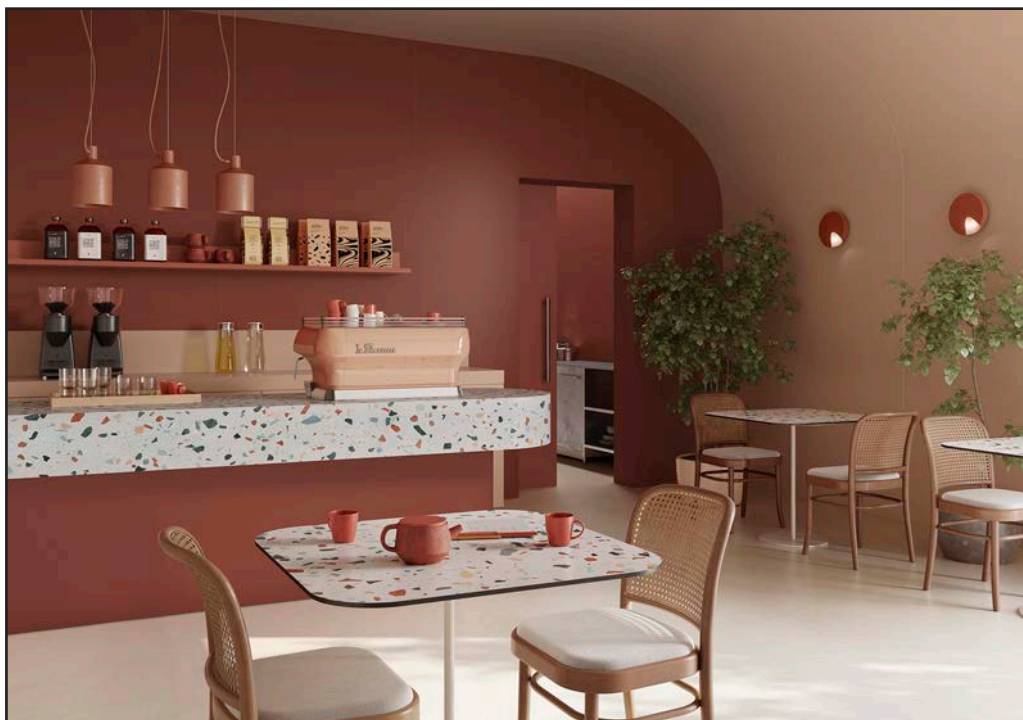
"We are delighted to announce this new partnership with Polyrey and be able to offer their extensive product range, covering all applications associated with their HPL and Compact collections," said Julie Dean, Group Marketing Manager at Panelco.

"Polyrey is well-known for supplying innovative surface solutions to the design and architectural sectors; their exceptional designs, quality, service and availability will strengthen our wider decorative portfolio.

"We are truly excited to be part of this partnership and look forward to seeing how the start of this new chapter will benefit both businesses."

Polyrey is a registered RIBA CPD provider in the UK, ensuring its team of engineered surfaces experts is on hand to support architects with their ongoing professional development. This expertise proved appealing to the Panelco team, who are looking forward to taking their next step as a company together with Polyrey.

Panelco
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NESP rebrands to Decorpanel

PREMIER FOREST PRODUCTS, a leading UK timber importer, has announced that its subsidiary, North-East Sheets & Panels Ltd. (NESP), will be rebranded as Decorpanel. This strategic move comes as part of Premier Forest's ongoing commitment to streamline its operations and enhance its brand presence in the northern region of England.

Premier Forest acquired NESP in November 2023. NESP is a specialist manufacturer and supplier of kitchen and bathroom cabinets, panels and worktops to contractors, installers and showrooms across the UK.

NESP is based in County Durham, just a short distance away from Decorpanel at Tyne & Wear. Established in 1998, Decorpanel has built a strong reputation as a specialised panel processing business, offering tailor-made solutions to its customers, with a four-acre facility encompassing 76,000 ft² of warehouse and factory space, and a team of 63 skilled professionals.

Anthony Hopps, managing director of Decorpanel, said: "We are pleased to unite both companies under the Decorpanel brand. This move represents more than just a change in name; it signifies a strategic synergy of expertise, resources, and capabilities.

"By integrating the strengths of both NESP and Decorpanel, we are poised to offer our customers an unparalleled level of service and product quality. Together, as Decorpanel, we are committed to driving innovation, exceeding customer expectations, and achiev-

ing sustained growth in the timber processing and distribution sector."

Terry Edgell, co-founder and CEO of Premier Forest Products, added: "The rebranding of NESP to Decorpanel underscores our commitment to delivering value to our customers and driving our growth. As part of the Premier Forest family, Decorpanel will continue to uphold its legacy of excellence while benefiting from the collective resources and expertise of our organisation."

Premier Forest Products ● <https://premierforest.co.uk/>



Commercial benefits of SterlingOSB Zero PrimedPlus

A MULTIDISCIPLINARY construction and property company based in the East Midlands has used SterlingOSB Zero PrimedPlus, from West Fraser, for the hoardings around one of its latest residential projects, close to Derby City Centre and its own head offices.

Aside from the practicalities of the ready-to-use panels offering time-savings when erecting a safe and secure site hoarding, INCO Construction & Development Consultants — (part of The Berry Group) cited the smart and professional appearance of West Fraser's new product as being a primary reason for moving away from the use of standard OSB or plywood.

The company's procurement & estimating manager, Lewis Sloan, commented: "As part of the Berry Group, we offer construction and development expertise to clients ranging from homeowners to sub-contractors and property developers with tailored packages that can take a project from conception through to final completion. In the case of Slack Lane, The Berry Group is the client for a student accommodation project with 44 study bedrooms across ground, first and second floors, while Berry Construction is carrying out the work and INCO providing all the construction management and consultancy services in which we specialise. The site itself was derelict land flanked by houses and some commercial properties.

"Over the years, we have purchased standard OSB and rolled

it white before spraying on our logos using stencils or applying transfers. Then, our Travis Perkins representative brought the West Fraser product to our attention. We regard hoardings as an important part of our branding: not just for the impression it creates with the local public, but also the trade contractors and other parties who visit the site during the build programme. Not only does the SterlingOSB Zero PrimedPlus present a smarter finish, but from a visual perspective it does what the company claims and stays smart for longer and we expect we will be able to reuse most of the panels on other jobs without any redecoration unless, for example, the project sponsors change."

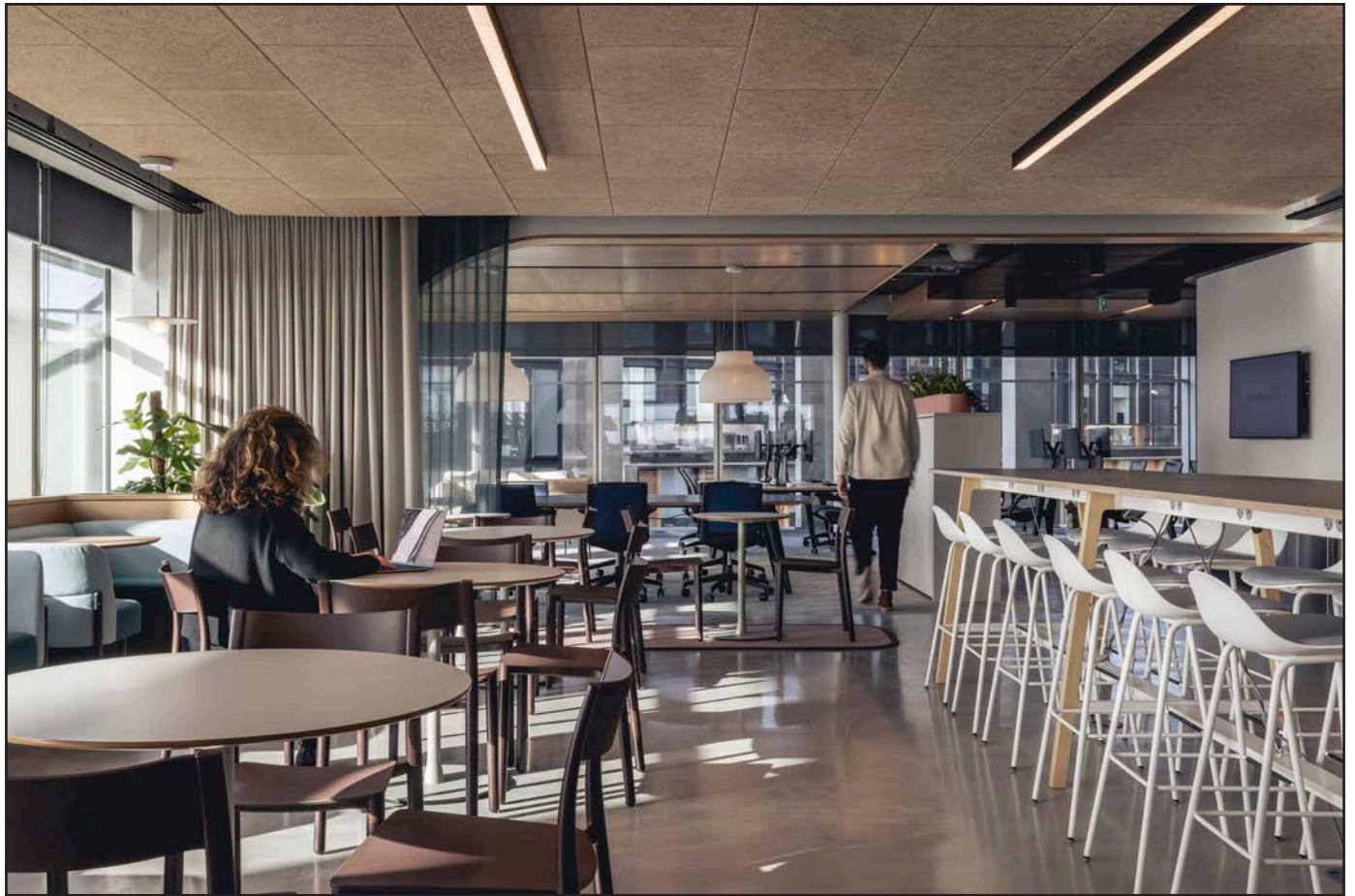
With a 30-metre stretch along the main elevation and returning around two of the other sides to the site, the SterlingOSB Zero PrimedPlus was screw-fixed to a timber frame braced off the scaffold rails during a three-day installation.

David Connacher, West Fraser's Marketing Manager, added: "SterlingOSB Zero PrimedPlus is a genuinely versatile product — not just suitable for site hoardings. It is also ideal for use in exhibitions, theatre and the arts. We were keen to engage with INCO as a pathfinder project partner and supplied half the pack of boards with the company's name and other details printed on the prepared surface. We are seeing a lot of interest from across the sectors."

West Fraser
01786 812921
<https://uk.westfraser.com/>



The science behind good acoustics



THE NEW workspace at AstraZeneca UK's head office in Kings Cross, London has been designed by Ekho Studio and spans over 21,000 square feet across two floors.

The company wanted to use its new King's Cross HQ to drive collaboration and innovation further with its relocation to London's new 'Knowledge Quarter' bringing them closer to their broad network of healthcare partners to enable them to work in ambitious, purpose-led partnerships.

As part of the stunning design, Ekho Studio used Trolldtekt's acoustic wood wool panelling as part of the specification to combat issues around acoustics and reverberating sound. The design embraced a lot of hard surfaces — from break-out areas and open plan offices stretching around meeting rooms. This, coupled with the full-height windows to maximise natural light all have an impact on acoustic performance.

Trolldtekt acoustic panels are available in a variety of different surfaces and colours and combine sound absorption with a tactile surface. With an expected life

cycle of at least 50 years and resistance to humidity and impact, they are available in various sizes and four grades, from extreme fine to coarse. The panels can be left untreated or painted in almost any RAL colour. Depending

on the panel specified, reaction to fire is classed in accordance with EN 13501 as B-s1,d0 or A2-s1,d0 respectively.

Cradle to Cradle Certified® at Gold level, Trolldtekt wood wool acoustic panels are manufactured

using wood from certified forests (PEFC™ and FSC®C115450) and can contribute positively to a building's BREEAM, WELL or LEED points.

Trolldtekt
www.trolldtekt.com



CRL Quartz Stella Gris: new from CRL Stone



DARK, sultry and thoroughly modern, CRL Quartz Stella Gris (Super Honed) is an on-trend yet timelessly elegant new surface from CRL Stone.

The latest newcomer to CRL Quartz, Stella Gris is a classy, cultural work surface that transcends styles, making itself at home in both ultra-modern and traditionally styled settings.

The rich charcoal grey swirls evoke the texture of natural slate, perfect for combining with brushed metals, textured finishes, and coarse textiles to create an organic ambience.

And while the colourway of the surface itself is always in fashion, it's versatility makes it perfect for contrasting with bold, bright shades to give any interior its own personality.

Offering a versatile design solution appropriate for any setting, CRL Quartz Stella Gris is honed to perfec-



tion and available in thicknesses of 20mm and 30mm. The material comes in an extra-large format slab, ideal for worktops.

Hard wearing and easy to care for, CRL Quartz is ideal for the kitchen and bathroom where durability and flexible design are paramount. Stella Gris comes with a 25-year warranty for added peace of mind.

CRL Stone
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Interest in compact laminate worksurfaces on the rise

A COMBINATION of socio-economic factors including recent health and safety concerns around engineered stone kitchen worktops has seen interest in compact laminate surge, according to insight from a leading manufacturer.

According to Elliott Fairlie, product lead at Bushboard, the convenience of being able to install compact laminate on site, and the resulting benefits this brings, is driving growing interest across the breadth of the supply chain.

The growing influence of the cost-conscious consumer, demand for accessible luxury in kitchen design and the increasing awareness of the risks posed by silica when working with engineered stone, have seen compact laminate worksurfaces emerge as a safe, versatile option for retailers, designers and installers looking to grow sales in a challenging market.

Due in part to their cost-effective nature, compact laminate worksurfaces are a viable alternative to traditional stone, quartz or marble. Manufactured by compressing layers of kraft paper soaked in resin under high pressure and heat, compact laminate worksurfaces are also surging in popularity given their ability to be cut and installed on-site.

Elliott Fairlie said: "We have undoubtedly seen more heads turned towards compact laminate worksurfaces of late. With consumers understandably reluctant to spend big on major kitchen upgrades, compact laminate offers a premium look comparable to natural alternatives such as stone or quartz, but at a more affordable price point while avoiding any major health and safety risks associated with the manufacturing process. The latest



slimline worksurfaces have been developed with flexibility, functionality and visual impact in mind. As the trend for minimalism and open-plan living spaces remain popular, thin yet extremely durable compact laminate worksurfaces create the 'barely-there' effect desired by many."

In February, Bushboard released its updated Zenith range of compact laminate kitchen worksurfaces, featuring six new décor options. Consisting of 20 striking designs with an ultra-slim profile, it is now possible to replicate the texture of real stone and marble counterparts while ensuring the high-performance associated with these natural materials.

The waterproof and non-porous nature of compact laminate worksurfaces, like Zenith, allows for installation of undermount sinks to create curved edges and bespoke areas. The inclusion of Antibacterial Protection, which is added to the compact laminate in the form of resin during the manufacturing process, slows down bacterial growth by up to 99.9 per cent of the surface's lifetime, according to the company.

Elliott continued: "The latest developments in kitchen worksurfaces show that ultra-slim profiles are thriving, and Zenith has been manufactured to provide a slimline, premium look without compromising on performance. The fact that it can be cut and fitted on-site makes the installation process cost and time-effective, creating a wider appeal around this product category than ever before."

Bushboard

www.wilsonart.co.uk/wilsonart-zenith